

The Gang of Four launch their new party in eight cities and lay down 12 tasks for 'reconciling the nation'



Social Democrat MPs and supporters lining up at yesterday's launch: back row, from left, Mr Tom Bradley, MP, Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, MP, Mr Richard Crawshaw, MP, Mr Jim Daly, of the steering committee, Mr Thomas Ellis, MP, Mr John Horam, MP, Mr John Roper, MP, Mr Neville Sandelson, MP, Mr Dick Taverne, of the committee, Mr Mike Thomas, MP, Mr Ian Wigglesworth, MP, and Mr Alec McGivan, of the committee.

Anger as public are left outside

By a Staff Reporter
The new party was launched yesterday by its four founders in nine cities. In two, angry members of the public were turned away from the press conferences.

In Norwich 60 people, some of whom had travelled more than 20 miles to what they thought was a public meeting with Mr William Rodgers, were told that it was for the press only.

Southampton
In Southampton Dr David Owen had to pacify a group of about 30 people at the steps of about 30 people (Michael Hatfield writes). He had an impromptu meeting for them, only once allowing his urbanity to be ruffled when a woman demanded to know what was in the party's manifesto. "Look, if you want a manifesto, go and join one of the other parties," he told her.

"The new members will be involved in making policy. We are not going to spoon-feed them. That would be dictatorial," he told them.

Edinburgh
Mrs Shirley Williams said the new party expected to benefit in Scotland as a result of the extreme policies of the Labour Party's recent conference (Ronald Faux writes).

Proposals for a Scottish assembly with powers to levy a separate income tax made no sense and would prove a disincentive to industry to move to Scotland.

The Social Democrats had favoured decentralization but it had to be in a national context.

Cardiff
Mr Roy Jenkins said that their support in Wales a Labour stronghold in the past, could be stronger than in other areas of Britain (Tim Jones writes).

"The evidence shows Wales is one of our stronger areas not one of our weaker. In one opinion poll, Wales had come second in support to the South-west of England."

Plymouth
Dr Owen flew to his home city of Plymouth as his local Labour constituency party in Devonport called for his resignation (John Withers writes).

But he dismissed the demand. He had the support of most of his constituents to carry on as a Social Democrat candidate.

Later, in Taunton, Dr Owen won cheers at a public meeting for his attacks on the rating system, unemployment, the Budget and on the waste of North Sea oil revenues. "I do promise a far better government than we have had for the past 20 years."

Labour Party members were joining the Social Democrats in increasing numbers, and the SDP should be a classless party.

Manchester
Mr Jenkins said it was not true to regard the North-west as a traditional Labour stronghold (John Charters writes). History had shown it to be a region of "swinging seats", which had frequently determined the outcome of general elections.

He said that there would not be time to put official candidates forward for the May county council elections, but that the Social Democrats would be fielding candidates for the borough and district elections in 1982.

Leeds
Mr William Rodgers said that one of the problems facing the new party would be to turn an initial enthusiasm into an effective political force. This year there would be no official SDP candidates in the local elections (Ronald Kershaw writes).

There would be many taking on the new party mantle but they would not be endorsed by the party simply because there was insufficient time to examine credentials.

Birmingham
Mrs Williams said that it was not particularly popular to talk about staying in the European Community and reforming it from the inside or trying to do more for the Third World (Arthur Osman writes).

"Nor was it popular to talk about racial equality. We are going to be in such a damped mess if we do not do something more effective about giving employment opportunities and promotion to young black and brown people of ability and commitment. We had better face up to that one and not go on living with our heads in the sand."

Social Democrats begin their political crusade

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

"We offer not only a new party, but a new approach to politics: we want to get away from the politics of out-dated dogmatism and class confrontation... to release the energies of the people who are fed up with the old slanging match."

With those words Mr Roy Jenkins, former Labour Cabinet minister and lately president of the European Economic Commission, opened the press conference at the Connaught Rooms in London called to launch the Social Democrats.

Offering Britain a fresh start
On the platform was the collective leadership: Mr Roy Jenkins, Dr David Owen, Mr William Rodgers and Mrs Shirley Williams, all immaculately dressed for the occasion. Their parliamentary colleagues were seated at the side, at a lower level.

Dr Owen, speaking second, said the party offered Britain a fresh start with which to recover economic strength and national self-confidence. It would be "the most democratic party in the country". All decisions would be on the basis of one-member, one-vote.

He said the party would not be financed from big business or big trade unions. "We are going to be free; we will make decisions... but they will be your decisions," he told potential members.

Mr Rodgers said it would be a patriotic party, caring deeply for the people of Britain. "It is a crusade we are entering upon today," he said. "We expect it to be a tremendous success."

Mrs Williams said that since Mrs Margaret Thatcher was elected she had divided the country between the North.

"But I think what is certainly the case is that we cannot maximize employment, which I believe is the deep desire of the people, while stimulating inflation through an incomes policy such as this Government has done so far, such as the Labour Party in opposition has done, and such as the Heath Government did for its first two years."

There had been incomes policies in the 1960s, but they had created too many rigidities in the system. Too much water was pressed against the dam and when it burst, the flood was stronger than it might otherwise have been.

"We need something that will last for a long time, most of all, a policy of sustained expansion."

Mr Jenkins said that leaving our Northern Ireland (where there are 12 seats), he hoped the party would fight half the country's constituencies.

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Leading article, page 15

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Scotland, Wales, and the "still relatively prosperous" South-East. "I fear for my country when I look at figures like one in six young unemployed by the end of this year..." she said.

The left-of-centre party, as Dr Owen described it, would seek to head divisions between classes and regions and would produce more radical policies for women and ethnic minorities "to give them real equality of opportunity."

Asked how many seats they thought they might win at the next election in view of Mr Michael Foot's forecast that they would win none, Mrs Williams replied: "I do not believe Michael Foot really thinks that we will not win any, but maybe it is the best thing for him to say at the moment."

"What I am absolutely sure about is that we will win a sufficient number of seats to have a very great influence on the future of this country, and that we even stand a chance, together with the Liberal Party, of winning a majority of seats."

Mr Jenkins said that formulating an incomes policy would be "one of the most difficult things we have to do; I accept that."

"But I think what is certainly the case is that we cannot maximize employment, which I believe is the deep desire of the people, while stimulating inflation through an incomes policy such as this Government has done so far, such as the Labour Party in opposition has done, and such as the Heath Government did for its first two years."

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a policy flexible, fairly decentralized, and not too bureaucratic. It has to be accepted by a majority of trade union members throughout the country."

Sir Robin Day wanted to know whether the party was a new kind of socialist party or part of a centre alliance with the Liberals.

Mr Rodgers replied: "No, we are not a new centre party, we are very plainly a left-of-centre party. David Owen and my other colleagues have demonstrated that we recognize fully that the Liberals have played an important part in British public life and we want a cooperative relationship with them."

"We need it for electoral purposes. We do not want to be fighting each other when the general election comes. We need to cooperate in the House of Commons, but we are a distinct and new party with new ideas and a new momentum."

Recruits joining 'all the time'
Of course, there would be rough edges. "We shall have to discuss with them the constituencies where they have had a long-standing interest and have done consistently well over many general elections," Mr Rodgers said. "But if they, like us, want to change the face of British politics, we must work to get arrangements which are fair to both sides and which reflect our strength in the country."

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The 12 tasks that new party faces

Following is the text of the Social Democratic Party's document issued yesterday:

TWELVE TASKS FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

1. Breaking the mould
Britain needs a reformed and liberalized political system without the violent conflict, the dogma, the violent lurches of policy and the class antagonisms that the two old parties have fostered.

2. Fair elections
The present "winner takes all" system of electing MPs is unfair to the voters and opens the door to extremism, whether of left or right. We need a sensible system of proportional representation in which every vote really counts.

3. A consistent economic strategy
To secure Britain's livelihood in the future we need a consistent economic strategy in the eighties, one that is not disrupted every time a political upheaval occurs. The opportunity provided by our temporary oil wealth should not be frittered away, but should be used to invest in new industries and new jobs and to rehabilitate the regions. Such an investment programme in the vital areas of industry, communications, public transport and the environment must be backed up by an incomes policy flexible enough to last and which will reduce the conflict between higher employment and lower inflation.

4. Employment policies
We are determined to create new jobs and reduce unemployment, by introducing a training programme for school-leavers and a modern apprenticeship system, by encouraging small- and medium-sized businesses which provide job opportunities, and by supporting schemes to conserve energy, raw materials and other scarce resources.

5. A mixed economy
There must be positive support for a mixed economy without constraint. Conservative sniping at the public sector or repeated Labour threats to privatize enterprise. Public and private firms should flourish side by side without frequent frontier changes. There should be no discrimination on grounds of race, colour or religion, or against any minority group. All our people should have equal rights, including the fundamental rights of citizenship.

6. A fair distribution of wealth
We recognize the capacity of market forces to create new wealth, a capacity unmatched by any centrally controlled economy in the world. We must also recognize that market forces, left to themselves, distribute rewards extremely unfairly. So we must strike a balance between rewarding enterprise and effort and distributing its products fairly. The state should lean towards greater equality, but if it intervenes oppressively, it will damage individual

liberty and diminish the nation's wealth.

7. Decentralization
Decisions should more often be made at local level involving people affected by them. The "men in Whitehall", whether ministers or civil servants, do not always know best. Every citizen should be able to find out about, and challenge, executive decisions. Parliament must be free to control the control of party machines, and should exercise more effective power over government departments. The second Chamber needs to be reformed but not abolished. We wish to see a practical and acceptable decentralization of power to the nations and regions of Britain.

8. Welfare and the community
We are pledged to improve the quality of our health services, our housing and the education of our children, and to make these and other community services more responsive to people's needs, not least in the inner cities. The welfare state should be less bureaucratic, concerned above all with the well-being of individuals.

9. A better environment
The environment of this densely populated country must be protected and cared for. If we are to ensure a decent environment for our children we must, in each generation, be prepared to pay some economic cost.

10. Equality for women
Despite recent changes, women are still not treated in our society as equal citizens. Women who work in the home have rights which should be respected and need good family support services. Those who work outside the home should have equal pay and equal opportunity. The spirit of existing laws should be implemented; positive further action is necessary.

11. A society for all
We live in a multicultural society, but we have signally failed to offer equal opportunities to all its people. There should be no discrimination on grounds of race, colour or religion, or against any minority group. All our people should have equal rights, including the fundamental rights of citizenship.

12. International cooperation
Britain should cooperate in the world and not retreat into isolation. We need our friends in a dangerous world, which means playing our full part in the European Community and in Nato, rigorously pursuing multilateral but not unilateral disarmament. We will not isolate ourselves from the hunger and poverty of the Third World. Without imaginative generosity, which marches alongside fastidious self-interest, we shall not only frustrate the hopes of the developing world, but undermine our own long-term prosperity.

The task for Social Democrats is to lead Britain successfully and tolerantly at home, self-confident and far-sighted abroad.

'No possibility of support' from the trade unions
By a Staff Reporter

Mr David Bessett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, said in Glasgow yesterday that he saw no possibility of support for the Social Democrats from the trade union movement.

He gave their life only until the next general election.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, the director general of the Institute of Directors, said: "The Social Democrats appear to have a public relations campaign but no product to promote."

Reactions from abroad included: Bonn: West Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) said it had always cooperated with the Labour Party and regretted any development that could weaken it.

Moscow: Tass said in a report from London that the SDP policy statement differed little from "the compromised concepts of right-wing Labourism" rejected by the majority of the Labour Party.

On procedure for elections, the rules say that outside a parliamentary general election, the party will contest elections if the steering committee decides to do so.

In any election, other than a by-election, which the party is contesting, the steering committee will decide which electoral districts are to be contested. Where more than one representative is to be elected from any district, the number of candidates will be nominated by the party.

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Rowland U-turn in attempt to buy 'The Observer'

By Catherine Gunn
Financial Staff

Mr Rowland (Tiny) Rowland has abandoned his attempt to gain control of *The Observer* newspaper by taking a personal shareholding in Observer International, its American parent.

Instead, Lord Rowland, who is chief executive, is to resume his own bid for the newspaper. The bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Lord Duncan - Sandys, *Observer*'s chairman, announced the U-turn at the company's annual meeting in London.

He added that Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, had agreed to ask the Monopolies Commission to conduct its inquiry as rapidly as possible. "I hope it can be done in eight weeks," Mr Rowland said yesterday.

The Department of Trade was not terribly keen for me to have a direct involvement."

Key to Mr Rowland's change of heart may lie in a legal point brought up in a letter to *The Times* on Monday, from Professor L. C. B. Gower. He said that company directors cannot divert to themselves

"any corporate property opportunity or information" without the approval of the company in a general meeting "and no always even then", which change of plan seemed to be doing.

Light relief was injected in the proceedings at Lord Rowland's annual meeting when a shareholder asked 11 introducing himself as "J. W. Rees-Mogg" asked a question about the profitability of the newspaper. Lord Duncan - Sandys deferred.

Master Rees - Mogg's family knowledge of newspapers. His father was editor of *The Times* for 14 years.

Labour welcome: Mr John Smith, Labour shadow trade spokesman, last night welcomed the reference to the monopoly commission (our Political Staff writes). He said he was "glad" that Mr Rowland was "conceding" that the bid fell within the scope of the Act. However he urged Mr Biffen and the members of the commission "pay close regard to the record of the *Observer* and the merger should be allowed on if it is established that it would not operate contrary to the public interest."

Government makes nationality concessions

By Lucy Hodges

The Government made two significant concessions in the committee stage of the nationality Bill yesterday, designed to protect the present rights of citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies.

It accepted an amendment tabled by two Conservative MPs which would mean that such citizens would have five years instead of two in which to register as British after the passing of the Act. Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, had hinted at that concession in a speech reported in *The Times* on March 16.

The Government also tabled a new clause yesterday, in place of clause 7, which would mean that all present United Kingdom and colonies citizens of whom there are 2,600,000 in Hongkong, would be entitled to register as British as long as they had lived here for five years and were free of immigration restrictions in the final year.

Originally they would have had to apply for naturalization under the Bill as it was first drafted; but there was no guarantee that would be granted. Naturalization is expensive and at the discretion of the Home Secretary.

That does not mean that more people will be able to come to live in Britain. Most Hongkong citizens do not have a grandparent born here and therefore do not have the right to live in this country. But it does mean that those who do will have the right to British citizenship under certain conditions, and will not have to go through the hazardous naturalization procedure.

The new clause also says that the Home Secretary may waive the requirement that a person must not be in breach of immigration restrictions in order to register as British.

He had been described previously as "a person of no part in bondage photograph sessions, as 'gentle, polite as a perfect gentleman'."

Medical alert at nuclear plant
A maintenance worker at a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant of British Nuclear Fuels, Wincoburn, Cumbria, has been treated for possible contamination by radioactive dust particles.

A routine monitoring check revealed that the worker had inhaled substances that exceeded the normal control limits set by the Health and Safety Executive.

'Kinky' case policeman no monster, QC says

Peter Swindell was a "d grace to the Metropolitan Police and it is a good job it is out of it," Mr Justice P said in the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

He was summing up in a trial of Mr Swindell, aged 42, who denies unlawfully killing Miss Pat Malone, aged 22, lesbian prostitute.

You cannot possibly say a person frequently visits prostitutes and who, when he died in his house, concealed her body and then was inquired were made, mislabeled, was a good policeman."

Yet no matter how he has behaved, he is entitled to have his case considered a proper and unprejudiced in accordance with the law. He decided not to send jury out to consider its verdict yesterday, but to let members decide on the matter. They decide today.

Earlier Mr Henry Pown QC, for Mr Swindell, told jury not "to be swayed by kinky aura surrounding case."

The former policeman at Walthamstow, east London, not a sadistic monster, Pownall said.

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Dublin talk called off after attack

By a Staff Reporter

A leading British forensic scientist cancelled a lecture he was due to give in Dublin last night before lawyers, doctors and members of the Irish judiciary.

It was to have taken place in the arts block of Trinity College, Dublin, where Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, British Leyland's employee relations director, was shot in the legs on Tuesday.

Dr Patrick Lincoln, aged 41, of the London Hospital medical college, said yesterday he had withdrawn after discussion with his hosts, the Irish Medico-Legal Society, and senior colleagues at London University.

"We did not feel the lecture was so important that it could not be cancelled and that it did not really justify me putting myself at risk," he said.

Dr John Harbison, president of the society and Ireland's state pathologist, said a 200-seat lecture theatre had been booked for the lecture on the use of blood groups in crime detection.

Lawyers, members of the judiciary and eminent doctors had been invited, he said. "I was worried that not only the speaker but the people might have been exposed to the kind of outrage that happened on Tuesday."

Dr Harbison said the Garda had offered to provide security for the meeting and had given Dr Lincoln, who was in Dublin at the time Mr Armstrong was shot, protection until he flew back to London. He quite accepted Dr Lincoln's feeling that it would be imprudent to go ahead with the lecture.

The shooting, he said, would have a disastrous effect on conferences in the medical world greatly value visits from British experts in Mr Desmond O'Malley, Ireland's Minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism, was also heavily involved in the conference centre, he said. "It is going to be terribly embarrassing for him."



Monument destroyed: Irish police were questioning three men yesterday after the destruction of the Queen Victoria monument which was erected in Dun Laoghaire, the port outside Dublin, to commemorate her visit of 1900 (Our Dublin Correspondent writes). The

attack on the monument and ornate fountain with decorated roof, took place early yesterday morning. A telephone call to a Dublin newspaper said the action had been taken in support of the H-block prisoners in Northern Ireland. A similar claim was made by the three men who shot Mr Geoffrey

Armstrong, the British Leyland manager, in the legs while he was lecturing at Trinity College, Dublin, on Tuesday. The cast iron monument, which was awaiting repairs after a similar but less serious attack last year, was pulled down with a block and tackle and completely wrecked.

Hunger striker may contest seat

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

All calculations in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election were thrown into confusion last night as rumours persisted that Provisional Sinn Féin would contest the seat with a hunger striker.

The most likely candidate would be Mr Robert Sands who has been refusing food since March 1. He is the leader of the IRA men at the Maze prison, near Belfast. Mrs Bernadette McAliskey said she would stand aside if a hunger striker was nominated.

She added: "I would look on it as an honour to sign his nomination papers. I will have no hesitation in pulling out if a prisoner goes forward." Sinn Féin won the seat 25

years ago with a convicted IRA prisoner who was then disqualified because of his criminal record. The runner-up was declared winner.

The chances of an IRA man repeating his triumph on April 9 barely exist because the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party is contesting the seat. Other nationalist candidates may also go forward.

The Irish Independence Party, which is small and electorally insignificant, has yet to make up its mind. Mr Noel Maguire, whose brother Frank held the seat since 1974 until his death three weeks ago, showed no signs yesterday of being willing to withdraw in favour of a prisoner.

But he was under strong pressure last night to stand aside. It is highly unlikely that Sinn Féin would stand against Mr Maguire who is a staunch supporter of the prisoners' demand for political status.

The Provisionals took out nomination papers for Mr Sands yesterday as manoeuvring continued. The Unionist camp was in no better state as vigorous negotiations went on to try to find an agreed candidate to avoid splitting the "loyalist" vote. The Democratic Unionist Party, headed by the Rev Ian Paisley, was still hoping last night that Mr Harold West, the former MP selected as the Official Unionist candidate, would stand down in favour of somebody who would be accepted as a unity candidate.

Shot Belfast councillor seriously ill

From a Staff Reporter

Belfast

Mr Samuel Mitler, the Belfast Unionist councillor shot by the Irish National Liberation Army on Wednesday night, remained seriously ill last night.

He was in his home in the Shankill area of the city when gunmen burst in. A part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, who had taken children to school in a school bus, was shot in co Tyrone yesterday. The bullets shattered the windscreen. He has chest, stomach and arm wounds.

Callaghan constituency party calls for inquiry into Militant Tendency

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

The national executive committee of the Labour Party has been asked by Mr James Callaghan's constituency party to investigate the finance and organization of the Militant Tendency.

The move was initiated during a stormy meeting of Cardiff South-east Labour Party management committee during which the former Prime Minister spoke of the concern being expressed on the Continent over the activities of the militant organization.

Because members of the constituency party are asked to declare that they will not speak to the press it is difficult to establish beyond doubt whether Mr Callaghan voted on the resolution. But it is clear that Mr Callaghan, who is now in India, was in sympathy with the resolution which deplored "factional organizations" which had their own structures and financial resources.

At one stage during the debate Mr Callaghan said there was no doubt in his mind that the tendency was a separate organization outside the structures of the party. It is equally clear that Mr Callaghan did not oppose the resolution which will increase pressure on the national executive to examine the role of the Militant Tendency.

So effective have been measures to contain the storm within the constituency that one member who was sitting next to Mr Callaghan said he did not notice how he had voted and another claimed he had popped out for a smoke during the crucial vote. Another member of the management committee was prepared to confirm only that Mr Callaghan had spoken.

In fact, Mr Callaghan briefly declared that during a visit to Sweden he had been told by leading politicians that they were concerned with the activities of the Militant Tendency.

Relations between the Militant faction and other party members in the constituency have been strained for a long time and this reached fever point when Mr Andrew Price, a prominent Militant supporter, was elected as delegate to the last party conference. His appointees allege that he secured the vote because the "moderate" vote was split.

Members of the Militant faction reject claims that they are a separate organization, stating that they are merely activists propagating the essential Marxist view of socialism.

The latest dispute was caused by an allegation that members of the faction have been selling copies of the news sheet Militant under the pretence that it is the official party newspaper.

Mr Price, in a statement, said there was "not a shred of evidence" so suggest that Militant supporters had tried to sell their newspaper in an underhand way.

TGWU branches seek block-vote change

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The casuals of the Transport and General Workers' Union huge block vote in the Labour Party and TUC annual conferences has come under strong internal criticism.

Five branches have tabled critical motions for the TGWU's biennial policy-making conference in June arguing for a change in the way the union disposes of its vote.

A number of branches argue for abolition of the block-vote system in favour of decision making either by ballots or branch discussions, and one asks delegates to deplore union support for the left wing of the Labour Party. Members should be consulted "on the way our general secretary" uses the TGWU leaders should ballot all it adds.

In the agenda for the Brighton conference, published yesterday, 10 motions call for the reform of the system that

gives the TGWU delegation to the party conference a 1,250 block vote, and about 2,000,000 at the TUC congress.

Although the Transport Workers enjoy greater influence than any other affiliate to election organization because of the block vote, not one motion defends the system. One London area branch wants the union to adhere to "the democratic principle of one man, one vote."

Another proposal is that TGWU leaders should ballot all members before any vote is cast on behalf of the union in any election for Labour leaders.

"In any future choosing of Labour Party leaders, this union's voting will be determined by a ballot at shopfloor level", and that principle is recommended for all block votes by a Newcastle branch.

Union leaders meet on May 14 to determine their attitude to that and other controversial issues.

College set to respond on criticism

By Kenneth Gosling

All departments at the Royal College of Art are preparing reports that will be sent to the Department of Education and Science in June as a reply to criticism by the college's visiting committee and reported as leading to the resignation of six members of the college's council.

In the meantime, Mr George Howard, chairman of the BBC, has taken over as chairman. One of the principal criticisms of the committee's report was that the college was falling in its duty to concentrate on the design needs of industry.

Professor Christopher Frayling, professor of cultural history, was delegated by the council yesterday to answer some of the criticisms.

He said: "The disagreement was not over academic policy but over the proper conduct of a university council."

Another weekend of disruption for ports

By Our Labour Editor

Travellers face fresh disruption at ports and airports this weekend during industrial action by Civil Service unions. Continental travel is expected to be particularly badly affected by lightning strikes by customs and immigration staff.

Leaders of the Council of Civil Service Unions last night completed plans for their third weekend of travel dislocation, which will be announced later today.

The unions said 85 Labour MPs had signed a Commons early day motion calling on the Government to enter into "urgent and meaningful" negotiations to resolve the pay dispute and to reestablish an agreed system for pay determination in time for next year's salary settlement.

The MPs argued that long-term damage is being done to industrial relations in the Civil Service by the Government's action in unilaterally abrogating the pay research system and the unions' right to arbitration.

In Stockport, about 2,000 civil servants demonstrated yesterday outside Apsley House, the office block where Inland Revenue management is processing cheques that are normally handled by employees at the strikebound computer centre in Shipley, West Yorkshire.

Four cartographers employed in the Department of the Environment on parliamentary work walked out yesterday. They were producing maps for the London Dockland Corporation Bill, which will now be delayed.

The unions said: "This could be of some political consequence because the Government wants to get the Bill through while there is still a Tory administration in the GLC."

CBI support: Industrialists came out strongly against the civil servants' pay claim last night (Patricia Isdall writes). Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said in Bristol that it would be disastrous for industry if the Government gave in to the Civil Service strikers.

Businessmen fully supported the Government's determination not to increase its 7 per cent pay offer, he said. "Public expenditure is excessively high and must be substantially reduced if the severe financial squeeze on manufacturing industry is to be eased."

In Stockport, about 2,000 civil servants demonstrated yesterday outside Apsley House, the office block where Inland Revenue management is processing cheques that are normally handled by employees at the strikebound computer centre in Shipley, West Yorkshire.

£168,450 spent on furnishing in French taste

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

Furnishing your home in the best French taste can come at an expensive price. A single unnamed private buyer spent £168,450 at Christie's yesterday to furnish a new house he has acquired in England. He bought 25 lots from the 119-lot auction of fine French furniture, objects, art and tapestries.

His largest single outlay was £46,000 on a chest of drawers. It is a Louis XIV blue bouillotte. The elaborate ornamental marquetry is in brass and blue-green stained horn, embellished with ebony and ormolu gilding.

Moonies libel case due to end after six months

The case brought by the Moonies sect, against Associated Newspapers, said to be the longest and costliest libel action ever heard in the High Court, is expected to end next week.

Costs, to be paid by the loser, are estimated at £750,000. If the newspaper group loses it will also have to pay damages.

Mr Justice Conyngham, beginning his summing-up of the case, which started on October 6, told the jury yesterday: "The final stakes are frighteningly high."

Associated Newspapers were sued by Mr Dennis Orme, United Kingdom Director of the Unification Church, over an article in the Daily Mail in May, 1978, in which the newspaper alleged that the church brainwashed converts and broke up families.

The judge said the jury would have to decide whether the article was true.

"The newspaper says the Moonies are no church. They are not Christian, but are mean, mercenary and materialistic, malevolent menace. Worse still, they say the Moonies capture and exploit well-educated young people. They use deceit to attract them and then they use deceit to the outside world."

On the other side Mr Orme had said the newspaper had acted dishonestly. He said Mr Orme had seemed to summarize his case when he said: "This is the gutter press of Great Britain speaking. It has followed the example of the gutter press and media of the world. What right has the Daily Mail to sit in high judgment?"

Mr Billy Connolly: Civil action defendant.

punch in the back of the neck and kicked him up the backside while wearing pointed-toe cowboy boots.

BL unions threaten more action

From Clifford Webb

Birmingham

White collar unions representing 4,500 staff at BL's Longbridge car plant will press management today for the withdrawal of 120 compulsory redundancies.

The meeting follows a two-day strike by staff which ended last night. The unions are threatening a follow-up campaign involving unannounced walk outs by key sections.

Production of Metro, Mini and Allegro models has been maintained during the two days but with increasing difficulty. Picketing has seriously hampered deliveries of engines and other components.

White-collar shop stewards claim to have demonstrated their ability to shut down the assembly lines without actually doing so. Company sources reluctantly admit that if the strike had continued for a few more days assembly would have been halted and many of the 16,000 manual workers laid off.

Longbridge has been singled out for action by four white-collar unions because the car it produces accounts for two-thirds of all BL car sales. With 10 per cent of the United Kingdom market, the Metro alone accounts for nearly half.

Comedian beat up man, court told

Billy Connolly, the comedian, attacked and beat up a journalist who went to his house to investigate a story, a Scottish court heard yesterday.

Mr Hugh Farmer, a Sunday People reporter, told Stirling Sheriff Court the comedian punched him, lashed into him with his feet and cursed him.

Mr Farmer said he had gone to Mr Connolly's home at Drymen, near Glasgow, in November, 1978, and was invited into the house by the comedian's wife.

Mr Farmer said Mr Connolly's wife had at his request, telephoned the comedian at the village public house and that Mr Connolly had stormed home. "He called me a bastard", Mr Farmer said.

The journalist said he was about to leave the house but Mr Connolly gave him a rabbit



nolly in a civil action, said the comedian threw something at the windscreen of the car, opened the car door and kicked Mr Farmer on the side of the head.

"I was terrified of what Connolly would end up doing to me if I did not get away," Mr Farmer said. He was "absolutely shattered."

He said that once told to leave the house he did so. He denied refusing to leave and provoking the comedian.

Mr Kevin Drummond, counsel for Mr Connolly, said Mr Farmer had known he was not welcome at the Connolly house and "got a bit more than he bargained for."

Mr Drummond added that if the journalist was to receive any damages they should not exceed £200. Sheriff Henderson will give his judgment at a later date.

An invitation to join the Social Democrats.

(Or are you happy with the way things are?)

Our country is in trouble. Our wealth is being squandered, our jobs destroyed, our social services shattered.

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The Hollis affair: Repudiation

Mrs Thatcher: Pincher book is distorted

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

All Prime Ministers and Home Secretaries since 1974 have been told of the results of Lord Trend's inquiry into Sir Roger Hollis, Mrs Margaret Thatcher disclosed in answers after her statement to the Commons.

She did not explain, and no MP asked her, why she had waited four days to deny an "inaccurate or distorted" the central report of Lord Trend's supposed conclusion made in the *Daily Mail* last Monday.

Ministers, when asked privately, said that yesterday was the earliest opportunity. The Cabinet, which was told yesterday of the statement's contents, apparently supported her decision to respond to the book, not the original allegation, Ministers profess that they are not in the business of answering every allegation, even though, when pressed, they agree that this was a grave allegation that led to a new Security Commission inquiry.

In the usual Whitehall quarters indignation is professed at the thought that Mrs Thatcher, although in possession both of the knowledge that the *Daily Mail* was wrong, and aware last week that the book was about to appear, ought to have issued a denial last Monday morning.

Although the Prime Minister did not go to the Maastricht summit until Monday afternoon, she did not, it seems clear, talk to Lord Trend until she came back on Wednesday. She then chose to wait another day before making her statement.

In Whitehall it is said that the book had to be read first by the Prime Minister's staff, and there is no acceptance that the delay in any way allowed the original story to be firmly believed, beyond the reach of denial.

In Whitehall it is also not accepted that Mrs Thatcher, by omission in her statement of any praise for Sir Roger or any sorrow specifically for what had been done to his reputation, wanted to leave any implication.

It is also not accepted in Whitehall that the new Security Commission inquiry has been set up purely as an effort to soothe public fears. However, no explanation is offered as to why Mrs Thatcher has agreed to a security review which she did not accept when Mr James Callaghan urged it after the Blunt disclosures.

It was Mr Michael Foot, otherwise acquiescing in the proposed review and saying the country was grateful to Mrs Thatcher for the way she made the statement, who first sprang to the defence of the dead.

Without mentioning names, he said people could be grossly defamed, and the way the dead had been written about had led to grave injustices.



Sir Roger Hollis, former head of MI5: two inquiries and a Prime Minister's statement.

That, he said, should also be taken into account, along with the security issues.

Sir Harold Wilson reminded the House that there had been reasons for anxiety about Sir Roger Hollis, but he added that Professor Blunt and Mr Philby would have been sufficient cause for that anxiety. He disclosed that the Trend inquiry had taken nearly a year, and that it had also concluded that there was nothing to substantiate the accusation of a cover-up.

He also wanted it on record that he was the first of seven Prime Ministers under whom Sir Roger had operated to have set up a Cabinet inquiry.

Mrs Thatcher confirmed that the Trend inquiry examined all documents and interviewed people as well, and had been exhaustive before coming to its conclusion.

Mrs Thatcher declined a suggestion to have one person with common experience added to the Security Commission, put by Mr Richard Wainwright, the Liberal spokesman.

One Conservative backbencher asked Mrs Thatcher to beware of Soviet disinformation practices.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings, said he believed that it might mistakenly and unfortunately be inherent in Mr Pincher's book that the Soviet services were seeking to undermine the credibility of loyal citizens and draw attention away from secret agents still in place.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that disinformation was one of the difficulties Britain's services had to contend with. But beyond her statement she did not wish to go.

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, declined later to agree to a debate.



Mrs Thatcher leaving for the Commons yesterday to rebuke, on the right, Mr Chapman Pincher who later refused at a press conference to retract allegations in his book.

Of moles and militants

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

At the moment for the excitement mounted and the moment for the statement neared. MPs, senior ministers and Opposition leaders flowed into the chamber until every seat was filled.

Was it journalistic imagination or were honourable, learned and gallant members spying each other rather more shrewdly than usual in the aftermath of Mr Chapman Pincher's claims of Soviet infiltration into the corridors of power?

Certainly the rows of unusually distinguished and well-shaven people in the public and VIP galleries suggested that the KGB, CIA, MI5, CBI, TUC or any other combination of initials were well represented, at least in those quarters of the Commons.

In the general excitement, even Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was equated with a KGB mole by Mr David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, North, whom many Tory MPs consider to be a sinister and suspicious character.

At last, the great moment arrived. Every seat was filled. Mrs Thatcher, dressed from head to toe in black, an ominous touch for the more melodramatic of her audience, rose slowly to the dispatch box.

Seated on either side of her, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, and Mr Francis Pym, the Leader of the House, settled back on the front bench, looking unusually solemn.

The Prime Minister placed her 2,000-word statement, almost

certainly the longest on security matters to have been made to the House in recent history, on the dispatch box in front of her.

Of the three former prime ministers still in the House, only Sir Harold Wilson was present. Mr Edward Heath is in Torquay and Mr James Callaghan in India. Just as well, perhaps, since Sir Harold's contribution did not add much to the general sum of knowledge on the matter other than to show how much Sir Harold had been on the ball when the chips were down.

Mrs Thatcher ploughed remorselessly through her statement, castigating Mr Pincher and clearing Sir Roger Hollis, while all around her listened in silence. The moles in the galleries were no doubt inwardly heaving sighs of relief that no more names were named and that yet another inquiry was to be the only outcome.

Unexpectedly and to the consternation of the more militant tendencies on the Labour benches below the gangway, the Speaker cut supplementary questions to the Prime Minister to the bare bone. Those who did get in, with the exception of Mr Patrick Duffy, Labour MP for Sheffield, Attercliffe, all sounded remarkably "establishment".

He set the House rumbling by suggesting that if recruits to the security services were chosen from a different social background, we might end up with a more patriotic, dependable and reliable officer. There was a shout of "Well done."

Patrick" from the Labour benches, while a considerable section of Tory MPs sounded as though they would like to put Mr Duffy on the rack and stretch him until his pips squeaked.

Mr Michael Foot, nowadays a respected establishment figure, was so warm in his welcome for Mrs Thatcher's words that the Prime Minister seemed to be breaking down in tears as she replied to that tribute from such an unexpected quarter.

There was increasing restlessness from the more revolutionary elements on the Labour benches as it became clear that they were not going to be called by the Speaker. But as the Speaker knows to his cost, it is difficult to keep a good militant down.

The Prime Minister had left the chamber, the moles had left the gallery and Mr Pym was answering questions about next week's business.

Suddenly, up jumped Mr Dennis Skinner, that well-known NCM mole from Bolsover, otherwise known as "the beast". On the excuse that he wanted a debate he told the House that what he was concerned about was not so much infiltration by the KGB as infiltration by the CIA.

To the anguish of Eton and The Guards, Mr Skinner pointed out that miners, railwaymen, dustbin men and left-wing shop stewards had never betrayed their country. Parliamentary report, page 10
Leading article, page 15

The Hollis affair: Reaffirmation

Pincher: The Prime Minister 'has been enormously misled'

By Craig Seton

Mr Chapman Pincher, whose claims about Sir Roger Hollis led to the Prime Minister's statement, insisted yesterday that the innocence of the former head of MI5 had never been established.

He said Mrs Margaret Thatcher must have been enormously and badly misled over certain parts of her statement to the Commons, and he added that he did not retract a word of his book, *His Trade is Treachery*, in which his allegations are contained.

Mr Pincher, speaking at a press conference to launch the book, published yesterday, said that Mrs Thatcher stated in the Commons that the investigations came after the suspicions over Sir Roger "were inconclusive".

He asked on what evidence Lord Trend (former Secretary of the Cabinet), who conducted the inquiry into the former head of MI5, had cleared him: "The situation was left unproven", he said.

Mr Pincher said: "I have been told repeatedly at high levels in Whitehall that it will never be possible to establish his [Sir Roger's] innocence completely because so many people are dying or getting old."

"It has been suggested in Parliament that he was cleared. I would like to know exactly what is meant by cleared. We had a similar situation with Philby, who was cleared by Harold Macmillan in 1955."

"The Prime Minister said that the suspicion against Hollis could have been attributed to Philby or Blunt. This is absolute nonsense. She must have been enormously and badly misled in this respect. Blunt left MI5 in 1945 and Philby left MI6 in 1951. They had no access to secret information. The information about Hollis, about a high level mole, did not begin until the middle of 1950 and went on into the 1960s. Philby and Blunt could not have been involved in those activities."

Mr Pincher, who insisted that his book was essentially a documentary, and his information concerning the Trend report came from "prime sources from people close to the inquiry or involved in it".

He knew what evidence was not able to clear him entirely. It had been suggested that it was a matter of eliminating Sir Roger, but that was not the case. He was the final and prime suspect.

Mr Pincher said he could appreciate that there were urgent political reasons for saying that Sir Roger was cleared. The Government was in a difficult position regarding the international repercussions.

Mr Pincher said there were five main points in the Hollis affair. MI5 and MI6 formed a group called the Fluency Committee to investigate possible Soviet penetration: it regarded Sir Roger as the chief suspect while head of MI5.

After Sir Roger retired he was recalled for interrogation: the suspicion continued, and Lord Trend was called in to investigate Sir Roger and another known as "Peter". The investigation cleared Peter and was inconclusive about Sir Roger, whose innocence could not be proved.

Mr Pincher welcomed Mrs Thatcher's decision to have an inquiry by the Security Commission. It would not have happened but for the revelations in his book. He did not think he would give evidence.

Closely questioned about what he described as the only main difference between himself and Mrs Thatcher, the Hollis case, Mr Pincher said that when it was said there was no evidence, it meant there was no evidence which could be put before a court of law.

He denied that the source of his information was James Jesus Angleton, a former CIA counter intelligence chief who had provided material for other writers, or Lady Falkender, Sir Harold Wilson's private secretary.

He said he had never claimed Sir Roger Hollis was a Soviet spy, but that he was investigated as a prime suspect, but questioned whether he thought the former head of MI5 had been a spy. Mr Pincher said he was not competent to judge whether he was a spy or not. However there were people involved in the inquiries who were convinced that he was.

Mr Pincher, who also claimed that MI5 had probably tipped off Lady Hollis, Sir Roger's widow, about his forthcoming revelations, leading to her disappearance, also stood by his allegations that Charles Howard Ellis, who became number three in the MI6 hierarchy, was suspected of working for both the Germans and the Russians.

The author, who challenged Mrs Thatcher to identify the pages of his book on which there were inaccuracies, also maintained that the late Lord Bradwell, formerly Mr Tom Driberg, the Labour MP, had been working for both the KGB and MI5. The security services also knew who were secret members of the Communist Party in Britain. Some were Labour MPs, he said.

Mr Pincher said the evidence still suggested that there was a mole at a senior level in the security services in the early 1960s.

His Trade is Treachery, by Chapman Pincher (Sidgwick and Jackson, 57.95).

Ellis charge 'absolutely false'

By Stewart Tendler

Sir William Stephenson, code-named "Intrepid" for his wartime espionage work, yesterday challenged allegations that his former deputy had worked for Nazi Germany and possibly the Russians.

In yesterday's *Daily Mail* Mr Chapman Pincher said Mr Charles Ellis, who rose to be third man in the MI6 hierarchy, confessed in 1965 that he had spied for Germany before the last war and MI5 thought he could have spied later for Russia.

During the war Mr Ellis worked for Sir William in New York and yesterday Sir William said: "Mr Pincher had better give his sources. This is an absolutely false charge."

"Before the war Churchill and others had a private intelligence service which showed the Nazis were on the move and Ellis was a member of that," Sir William said. He brought Mr Ellis to New York because he was "the best man they had" in MI6.

Sir William said: "What the *Mail* says is absolutely nonsense. I say that in quite positive terms. I knew everything about Mr Ellis. I am absolutely positive. He was one of the very few you could be quite certain about."

An Australian by birth, Mr Ellis came to Britain and joined the Army in 1914. He spent many years in the Middle East and studied at Oxford and the Sorbonne. He began a consular

and diplomatic career which was followed by a period as a journalist.

Many of the tasks were cloaks for his intelligence work. He is said to have shunned office politics, preferring to work in the field with agents, whose reports he was said to be an expert at evaluation.

When the last war started Mr Ellis advised Mr J. Edgar Hoover, the late head of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, on counter espionage measures before Pearl Harbour.

After the war he worked in the Far East before retiring in 1953, having been awarded in the course of his career an OBE, CBE, and the American Legion of Merit.

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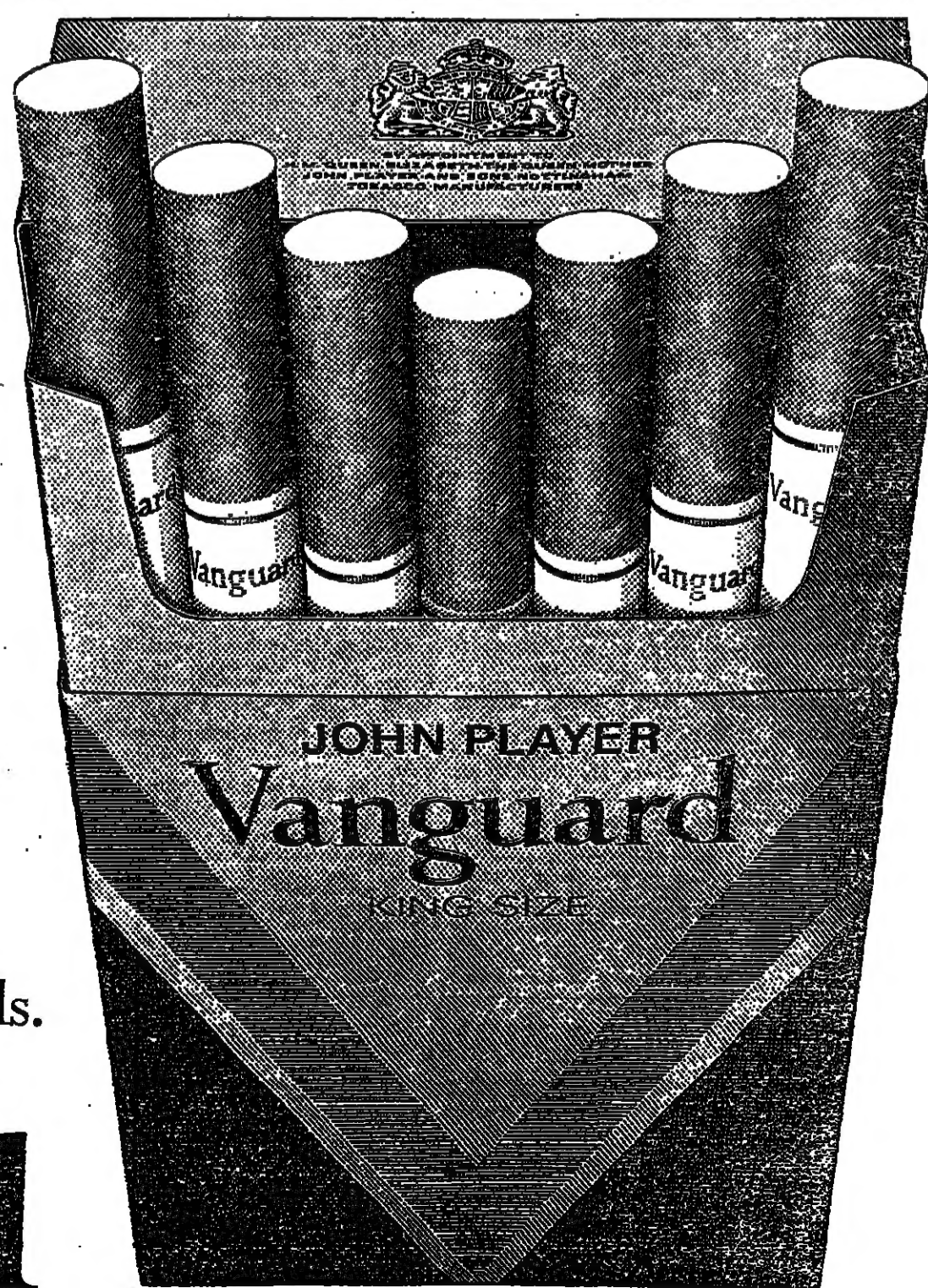
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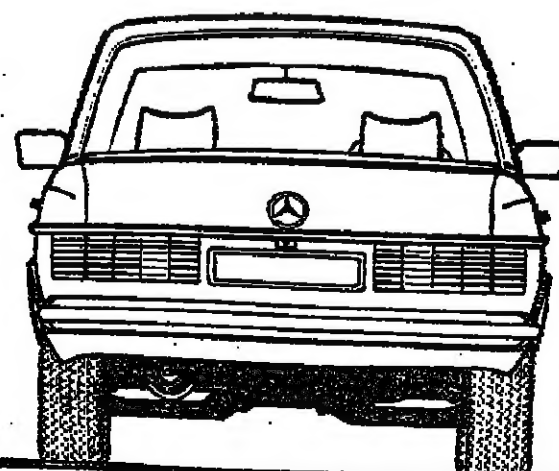
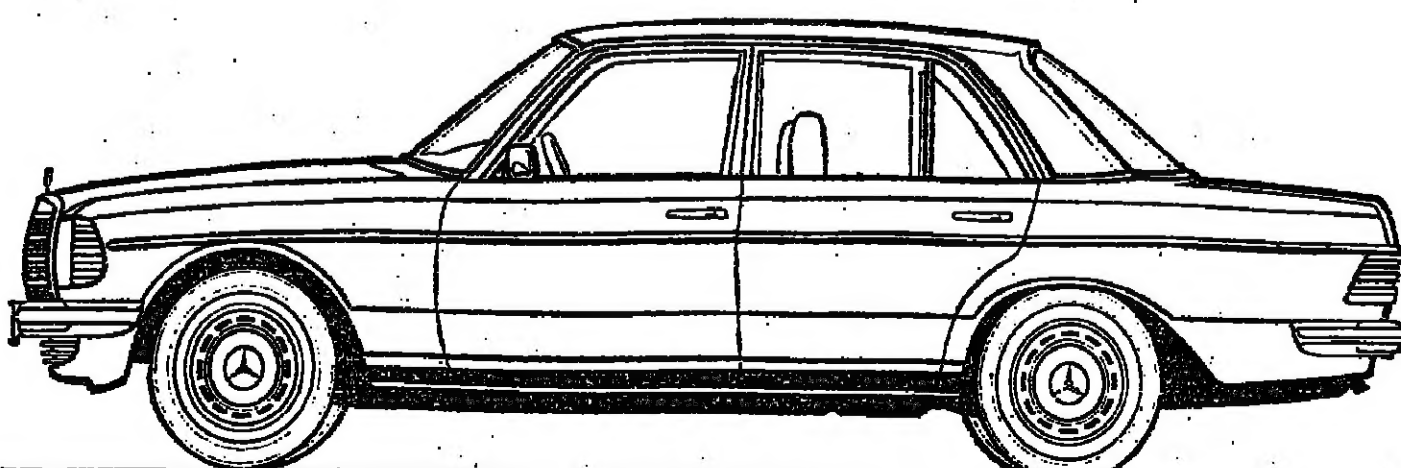
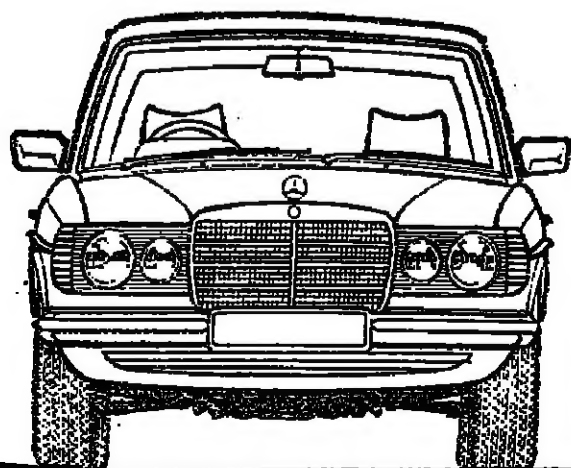
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Permanent ban faces drunk drivers after second offence

By Richard Ford

Drivers convicted of two serious drinking driving charges within 10 years are to be forced to prove they are not addicted to alcohol before their licences are returned at the end of their disqualification period.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, said yesterday that the sanction would apply to motorists convicted of driving with an alcohol level of 200mg in 100ml of blood and was expected to be in force by November 1982.

"There is no reason why anyone who has a drink problem should be treated in a different way to people with some other disability which renders them a danger on the road," Mr Clarke said during the committee stage of the Transport Bill.

"It will be a question of the driver satisfying us that he does not have a drinking problem or has cured that problem before we decide."

A motorist convicted with such a high blood alcohol level would be advised to seek help from alcoholics and other counselling agencies during a period of disqualification.

A month before the ban was due to end the offender would be asked to undergo an independent medical assessment by a specialist. He would be invited to provide evidence to support his case that he did not have a drink problem and should be granted a licence.

The procedure will be similar to those involving the withdrawal of licences on other medical grounds and the Department of Transport will be advised by a panel of specialists in formulating the details. An offender faced with the withdrawal of his licence by the department would have a right of appeal to a magistrates' court.

Mr Clarke said: "We are not talking about people who are just over the legal limit. People over the 200mg blood alcohol level are drunk. They are a positive menace."

Almost five years ago a departmental report by Mr Frank Blennerhassett, QC, recommended that the law should deal harshly with high-risk offenders. Figures in the mid-1970s showed that one in five of all road deaths concerned drinking and driving and that in 1976 more than half the people convicted of drink-drive offences had a blood alcohol level of 150mg or more.

A motorist is breaking the law if he has more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milligrams of blood. One pint of beer or two ordinary measures of whisky are said to be approximately equivalent to a blood alcohol level of 80 milligrams. But a spokesman at the Department of the Environment said several factors had to be taken into account, including a person's weight and height and whether food had been eaten.

Bank regrets its action over student

The Midland Bank apologized yesterday for turning a deaf ear to a young, overdrawn student customer.

When Miss Janice Campbell, of Temple Gardens, Dagenham, Essex, went to talk to the manager of the Barling branch, she was arrested and appeared in court.

Miss Campbell was later acquitted at Southwark Crown Court, London, on 12 charges of deception in connection with her credit card.

Yesterday the Midland Bank, whose advertising says, "Come and talk to the listening bank," wrote to her expressing regrets over the incident and telling her she need not repay any debts to the bank.

Mr William Matthews, the bank's group public affairs adviser, said: "Obviously we see this as damaging publicity, but we shall be carrying on with our advertising campaign."

The advertisement had been inefficient, he said. The internal inquiry into the incident had not finished.

After the case Miss Campbell said she had opened an account at Barclays.

Amsterdam air fares reduction

The Dutch Government has allowed British Caledonian Airways to fly to Amsterdam with fares up to 45 per cent cheaper than standard economy fares now in operation. It is the first big breakthrough in Britain's drive for cheaper air fares to Europe.

The approval from The Hague is for British Caledonian's Mini-Prix concept, under which it will fly passengers off-peak at those cheaper rates. But the Dutch have rejected a plan which would have allowed last-minute stand-by passengers to fly for up to 70 per cent below the present economy rates.

The airline launched its attempt for cheap Mini-Prix fares more than two years ago and got British Aviation Authority and government blessing for the scheme, with Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam as front runners.

British Caledonian now intends to ensure that its Mini-Prix concept is extended to Paris and Brussels and eventually to 24 other routes into Europe on which it believes the cheap fares idea is viable.

Brick company to build £40m plant

By David Hewson

The London Brick Company yesterday won its battle to build a £40m brickworks in Bedfordshire, four months after a similar scheme failed through objections about pollution.

The company intends to build the works on the site of its Ridgmont plant, which, with its 25 tall chimneys, is a familiar sight to M1 motorists.

But yesterday's decision by Bedfordshire County Council planning committee will not affect the LBC's plans to close the Ridgmont works at the end of May with the loss of 1,100 jobs. Building of the new plant will await an improvement in the economy.

In January the company announced that it was dropping plans for a £30m brickworks at Stewarby, close to Ridgmont, because of conditions on pollution control imposed by the county council.

The closure of Ridgmont was announced a month later and provoked a petition from people who were worried about the loss of jobs at the county's largest employer. The petition called for LBC's alternative to the Stewarby plant, a new works at Ridgmont, to be given planning permission.

The county council planning committee, which had referred the decision on the Stewarby scheme to a meeting of the full council because of the controversy surrounding it, decided on a vote of ten to one yesterday to allow the Ridgmont plan to go ahead without reference to the full council.

The two sides have compromised over pollution controls. The decision on Stewarby had demanded that full controls to remove pollutants, chiefly sulphur oxides and fluorides, be incorporated in the plant during its construction.

Mr Michael Wright, deputy chairman of the LBC, said yesterday: "We are very pleased with the decision because it offers our industry the way ahead as the country moves out of the recession."

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Witness denies he deceived corruption inquiry team

From Michael Hornell

Middlebrough. A former criminal denied a suggestion at Teesside Crown Court yesterday that he had deceived two reporters from The Times who were carrying out an investigation into the Metropolitan Police.

It was made by Mr John Symonds, a former London detective, who has pleaded not guilty to three charges of corruption accepting £150 from Mr Michael Perry for helping him over an arrest.

In cross-examination, Mr Symonds asked Mr Perry about alleged meetings when instalments of £50 were paid.

He said: "I suggest the reporters gave you lumps of money to buy a few detectives and you kept this money and then afterwards told the reporters you had handed it over, thus killing two birds with one stone."

Mr Perry replied: "Not true."

The Crown alleges Mr Perry was trapped into paying Mr Symonds. He said the money was his own and after instalments were paid, the reporters searched him to confirm that.

He denied another suggestion from Mr Symonds, aged 43, that a tape-recording made by the reporters of one meeting showed the detective was advising Mr Perry to go straight.

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It is expected that the pledge will cover widows' and invalidity pensions. Mrs Chalcraft, who gave details of the intention in a letter to Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour spokesman on social security.

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Chelsea pensioners watching the London Fire Brigade carry out a big exercise at the Royal Hospital yesterday. Firemen from 12 stations took part and smokebombs were used.

BBC television licence gift tokens to be sold

By Kenneth Gosling

Gift tokens which can be used for full or part payment of the television licence fee are to be sold by the BBC this summer. They will be available through the post and recipients will be able to trade them in at post offices when their licence fees become due.

The tokens, to be sold in sums ranging from £2 to £34, the present colour licence fee, will also include one for £12, the black-and-white fee. A small charge will be made for handling and postage so that the scheme will be self-subsidized out of the licence fee.

Mr George Howard, chairman

of the BBC, told the Broadcasting Press Guild in London yesterday that they were also keen to introduce other methods of payment, such as by direct debit and credit card.

He rejected the Labour Party's manifesto proposal that licences for old age pensioners should be phased out. He said it would mean other people being forced to pay more and there would also be many cases of old people living with families and putting the television licence in their own names.

Mr Howard said the BBC had to exploit its programme sales to the full. He believed they had a tremendous future

Festival for Lennon defended

Canon Gordon Bates, proctor of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, has described critics of the peace festival for John Lennon, the former Beatle, as having a "pharisaic approach".

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend the service at the cathedral on Sunday.

Canon Bates said: "The main theme of criticism is that this memorial service is to a man whose morals were low; who led people astray because of drugs; who did nothing for peace and who led an immoral and wanton life."

"I am not in the business of judging people and I hope the Church is not either."

Outlining a savings programme, McKinsey say bluntly that there is no point in launching an effort to reduce administrative costs unless there is the will to do so.

"Reducing costs is difficult; and, although the process is designed to ensure that reductions are rationally arrived at (in contrast to the more traditional across-the-board cuts, which affect the efficient and inefficient, low and high priority services equally), in the end there is no escaping some painful personnel decisions. Since 79 per cent of the administrative budget is spent on manpower."

The administrative staff at Westminster numbered 2,307 on January 1, 1981. The present staff total is 3,918.

The suggested programme envisages staff cuts, and the report says that further savings could be made if as a result of staff reductions and more economical use of office space.

Other suggestions for savings include putting out certain services to private contractors, and increasing charges for services.

Services where private contractors should be considered include the architects' department, with an annual cost of £13m; cleaning and refuse collection (£10.7m); building maintenance (£4.2m); computer services (£1.4m); and parks and open spaces (£1.6m).

Early in 1975 Infabrics discovered that shirts bearing the name of John Lennon, sold in the United Kingdom, were being made in the United States.

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Law Report March 26 1981

Sale of shirts not 'publishing' copyright work

Infabrics Ltd and Others v Jaytex Ltd (sued as Jaytex Shirt Company Ltd)

Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill

The House of Lords, construing sections of the Copyright Act, 1956, which they described as "labrhythmic" and "torquous", held that the sale in the King Road, Chelsea, of shirts made in Hongkong and carrying a design in which copyright was claimed for an artistic work did not constitute "publishing" an infringing work as to constitute an infringement of copyright entitling the owners to damages for every shirt sold with the design.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by defendants, Jaytex Ltd, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Buckley and Lord Justice Donaldson) (The Times, February 21, 1980; [1980] Ch 252), which had allowed an appeal from Mr Justice Whitford, who had allowed an appeal from Mr Justice Buckley and Lord Justice Donaldson.

The appeal had been heard by three Lord Justices, Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Donaldson and Lord Justice Roskill, two days after the conclusion of the hearing and before judgments were given.

The findings of fact, as stated by Lord Justice Buckley, were as follows. In March or early April 1974, Mr. Jaffa of Infabrics Ltd, a company which designs and manufactures shirts, made a selection which included "past the post" design, a design of three horses racing neck-and-neck toward a winning post. The design was made on a card, and some of the shirts were made on a card, and some of the shirts were made on a card.

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On Infabrics' appeal they did not dispute the facts finding that Jaytex did not have the necessary knowledge for liability under section 5. The Court of Appeal, however, held that the acts of importation and sale constituted infringement by publishing. Because of that infringement they held that Jaytex was liable for damages in conversion under section 18, the measure of damages being the value of the shirts.

The relevant sections on "publishing" were section 1(1)(b) and (c) and (2). Section 1(1) laid the basis for copyright and infringement by reference to certain acts, which were exclusively reserved to the owner of the copyright. It was of importance to notice that both the exclusive rights, of which the copyright consisted, and any infringement of those rights, extended to the acts of publishing the work in any material form (not relied on) (b) publishing the work. There was no definition of "publishing" in the Copyright Act, and there were real difficulties in extracting the meaning of the word from the rest of the Act.

Three meanings were suggested. The first (accepted by the Court of Appeal) was that publishing consisted of the issue of reproductions of the work to the public. The second (contended for by Infabrics) was that publishing was what was done by a publisher. The third (contended for by Jaytex) was that publishing was making public, in the territory, a work which had not previously been made public in the territory.

The second meaning was based on section 49(2)(c). It was an intricate piece of drafting which could only be interpreted by reference to the context. The reproduction included reproduction of a substantial part of a work but even that was not sufficient. Under the law, a work which had not previously been made public in the territory.

When, however, it was a matter of dealing with infringement, relevant provisions in section 1(1) and (2) of the 1911 Act (the Copyright Act) were not applicable. In such a context, in accordance with the accepted meaning of the word, publishing could only be making public what had not previously been made public in the territory.

Since it was not the case that the design in the present case had not previously been made public, the case based on publishing must fail. Therefore Infabrics had failed to establish a case under section 18 of the 1911 Act.

Two other points remained. Conversion. It was clear that plaintiff failed to establish a case under section 18 of the 1911 Act. The terms of sections 1 and 2 in Part II headed "Remedies" were not applicable. A remedy, alternative to, or some extent cumulative with, damages for infringement, was not available. No damages for conversion could not be claimed regarded acts prior to March 1911.

(2) Measure of damages. The Court of Appeal held that the measure of damages in conversion was the value of the shirts which were clearly the "infringing copies" (section 18(1)). In Lordship's opinion, the words "infringing copies" were not applicable. The result in the present case was that the measure of damages was the value of the shirts which were clearly the "infringing copies" (section 18(1)).

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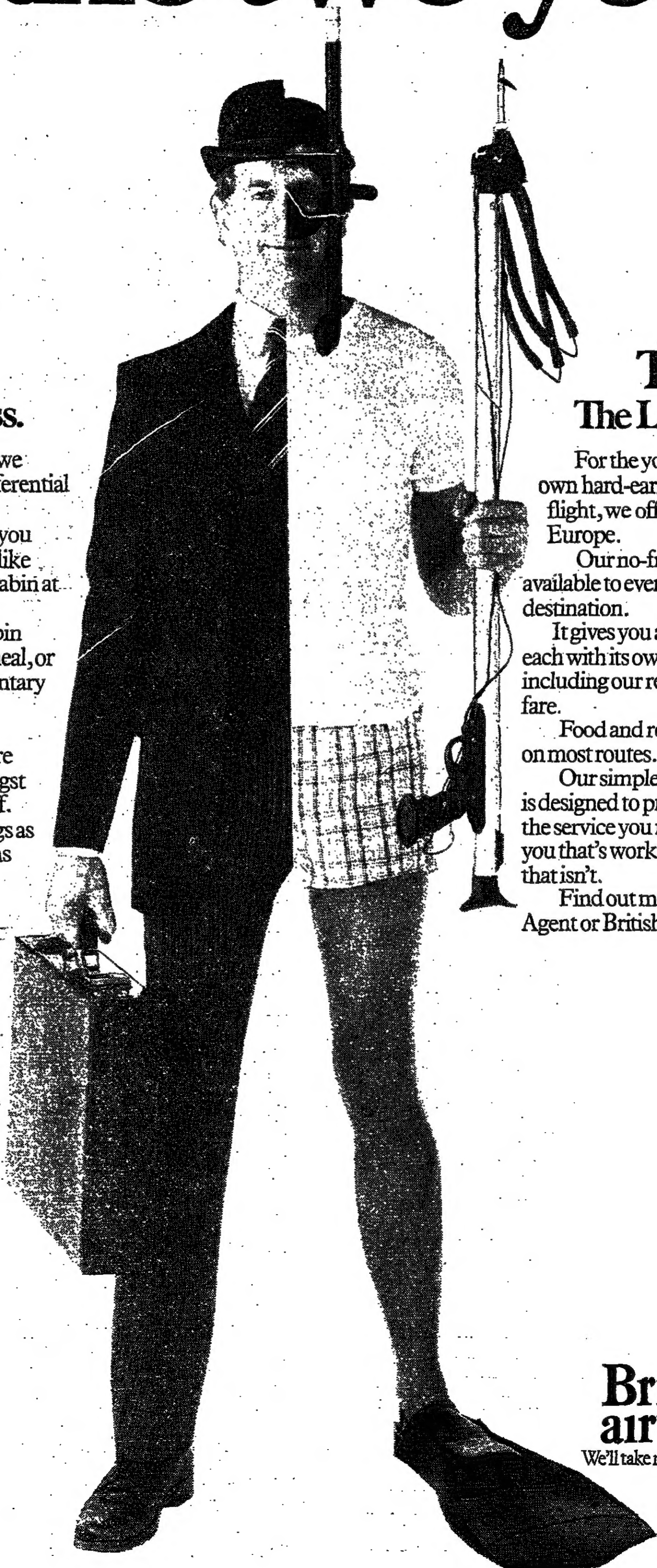
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West Bank polls put off to stop PLO win, general admits

From Christopher Walker
Ramallah, March 26

Brigadier-General Ben-Eliezer, military commander of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, disclosed today that elections to the 25 Arab municipalities in the area had been postponed indefinitely because of the expected victory of supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would have wrecked the Camp David peace process.

The surprising admission came during one of the rare press conferences held by the Israeli-born paratrooper general in charge of the West Bank. It confirmed the claim frequently made by local Palestinians that there has been an upsurge of support for the PLO among the 720,000 West Bank Arabs.

Asked why the elections had not been held as scheduled last April, the general stated: "We have made our studies of the atmosphere and we came to the conclusion that it would be to the benefit of the local population to postpone the election."

"If we had let the elections take place, the results would have been very clear—once and for all to bury the Camp David process."

General Ben-Eliezer, 57, is responsible for the hardline security policy now in operation throughout the West Bank, claimed that the elections were not required by law, but were a privilege granted by Israeli military government.

"We have to make sure that the local atmosphere is such that the population will not be voting under pressure," he explained.

The shelving of the elections has caused widespread bitterness among the West Bank population which regards the municipal polls as the only permitted form of political expression.

The previous election in 1976 had shown the beginning of a voting trend towards support of a more radical Palestinian leadership.

Justifying the postponement, the Israeli commander and military governor maintained that his original decision had been taken with the backing of prominent local Arabs who for security reasons he was unable to identify.

"The people in the area are not independent, they will not do anything unless they get the green light from outside," he said, according to a correspondent.

Speaking at the heavily guarded military government headquarters outside Ramallah, the general added: "There are reasonable leaders in the West Bank. The only thing that has made life very difficult is that they are now powerful or courageous enough to say: 'All right, let's join in the peace talks and see what happens.'"

He revealed that earlier this week he had delivered a strong personal warning to the most popular West Bank mayor, Mr. Bassam Shakra of Nablus, not to continue his recent political activities outside his home town.

It was strongly implied, which not being said specifically, that the mayor will face deportation if the warning is ignored.

Mr. Shakra's activities in support of the Palestinian cause have grown rapidly since the crippled mayor returned in January after convalescing in England from a car bomb attack which blew off both his legs.

but units are expected to be sent into the villages of Shakra and Bradich, scarcely five and a half miles from the Israeli frontier.

The figure of 1,500 troops appears to have been fixed under the 1949 armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel. According to a newspaper, *Al-Nahar*, Mr. Brian Urquhart, an assistant to Dr. Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, will try to revive the armistice agreement when he visits Lebanon next month.

Since President Sarkis and President Assad of Syria met last week, the Israelis have claimed that any deployment of Lebanese troops in the United Nations area would represent an operation undertaken at the behest of Syria. Lebanese troops have already begun parading inside the United Nations zone.

Israeli anger: The Israeli military command today denounced a reported pledge by General Callaghan, to bring all of Lebanon under the control of the Lebanese Army (Musha).

Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: In an extraordinary official communiqué, the army accused the Irish general of "disrespect for human rights" and "violation of the United Nations force were killed and wounded last week in shelling by Major Haddad's militiamen after Lebanese regulars had been deployed near Nigerian positions about a mile from his lines."

Major Haddad, has regarded the units under Beirut as Syrian vassals. The Israeli army statement reaffirmed its commitment to Major Haddad. The Israeli forces, it said, will not abandon people who depend on Israel for their survival.

An official on General Callaghan's staff confirmed tonight he had stated in an interview in Beirut that he was determined to implement his mandate to restore southern Lebanon down to the Israeli border to the Government of Lebanon.

The official said that in answering a question the general had expressed unhappiness about United Nations casualties but had added that if implementing its mandate required them, they would have to be accepted.

Many feared drowned in S Africa floods

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, March 26

Scores of people, mostly blacks, are feared drowned in floods South Africa's Eastern Cape Province during the last 36 hours.

The city of Port Elizabeth has been the worst hit with nearly nine inches of rain recorded there by 8 am during the previous 24 hours.

The town of Lelandsburg, in the normally arid Karoo semi-desert, 200 miles inland from Cape Town where the survivors of floods in January in which at least 130 people drowned are still living miserably in tents, was threatened by renewed flooding.

Civil defence officials in Port Elizabeth said the situation was chaotic. Air Force helicopters summoned for rescue work were grounded by gales and all road, rail and air links to the city were cut.

As the Gamtoos river burst its banks and overflowed, a colony of coloured people living on an island in a meander was believed to have been swept away and drowned.

Police were unable to say how many people lived on the island but said that two white schoolboys who tried to rescue them were also swept away.

Port Elizabeth's black townships have been particularly hit by the flooding and scores of people are unaccounted for. In white suburbs, householders broke down their garden walls to release water from overflowing swimming pools.

The city's Livingstone Hospital was flooded and in the outpatients' department patients were sitting ankle deep in water as they waited for treatment.

The death penalty will not be carried out in France again before the presidential election.

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If elected, he would then make his decision known, and if he was not returned he would hand over his findings to his successor. What was at stake, he said, was the life of a man, and he hoped that this would no longer be used in the electoral debate.

All President Giscard d'Estaing's opponents in the election have taken a stance against the death penalty.

The guillotine blade which might have been used to execute Louis XVI has just been bought at auction for 15,000 francs (£1,360) by a lawyer who is campaigning against the death penalty.

M. Bernard Masson said he bought the blade to prevent it from being used to prevent "this piece of French history" leaving the country. He intended to display it in his office to inspire him in his campaign to abolish the death penalty.

All but the most intransigently pure of them gave him unstinting adulation. Those who do not share the faith find it rather difficult to conceive of any substantial way in which the President might dispense the far right, but there were in that assembly a few doubters.

Had not Mr Reagan chosen George Bush as Vice-President, a notorious right-winger, and Alexander Haig as Secretary of State, a known associate of Henry Kissinger, who believes in détente?

Most of the conservatives have no such doubts, and an outsider must grant that, so far at least, their faith is justified. Mr Reagan is the most deeply conservative President of the United States in two generations and he really seems to mean what he says.

This is an important point. John Mitchell, the Attorney General, once said: "Watch what we do, not what we say," and the conservatives gathered in the Mayflower Hotel last week would assert that Mr Nixon's Administration was altogether too liberal, despite



A huge queue stretching outside a butcher's shop in central Warsaw yesterday.

Guillotine is taken out of campaign

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 26

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Japan stores sunlight in crystals

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, March 26

Japan has managed to store the Sun's energy for 61 days in an important development in the use of solar power.

Scientists have produced a stable chemical compound to store the energy and tonight claimed it as a world breakthrough after 20 years' research.

Led by Professor Zenichi Yoshida of the engineering department of Kyoto university, they claim the compound will overcome the greatest hurdle to the practical use of solar power: the production of energy when the Sun is not shining.

The new compound has not been named but takes the form of a yellow crystal which is made by combining a petroleum derivative, called norbornadiene with methyl radicals and a substance named cyano.

It changes its molecular structure when exposed to sunshine. Professor Yoshida said that when a small catalyst of silver was applied to it the substance reverted to its original molecular structure, generating heat at any required moment.

If produced in liquid form, the compound would retain the energy for 61 days without a boost of sunshine.

The temperature of the compound does not rise when solar energy is stored. The energy takes the form of molecular change at normal temperatures. In this way energy is not lost through the dissipation of heat, a spokesman for Kyoto university explained.

Professor Yoshida said initial tests showed that 2.2lb of the substance would conserve 92,000 calories. The research team said a solar heater with a surface of a square metre could store 85 million calories of energy a year. The compound could also be transported while it stored energy.

If the compound was produced in solid form it could store energy for indefinite periods if the silver catalyst was not applied. However, it would have to be produced in a more impure liquid form for practical use.

Professor Yoshida said the new compound could be used to store energy for heating, cooling and eventually the generation of electrical power. There was little wastage and no pollution.

Scientific advance: The advance comes in the technique for recovering the solar energy at room temperature.

The substance norbornadiene is one of several materials that research groups in Europe and the United States have been exploring for several years as possible solar energy batteries.

There is a large number of chemical compounds sensitive to light which rearrange their molecules when exposed.

The drawback in using them to make batteries for storing energy is twofold. Some heat has to be applied to push the material over an "activation barrier" or to create the conditions in which the molecules return to their normal structure, giving up the surplus energy.

Second, the norbornadiene agents are sensitive only to the ultraviolet band in the Sun's rays which holds only a fraction of the total energy of light.

The commercial prospects for the invention may turn on the use of the silver-based catalyst, which stimulates the release of energy at room temperature.

Some method may have to be developed of putting the silver into the substance when the heat is required, without consuming the silver.

Triumph of virtue over evil that could only be made in America, and probably only in the most old-fashioned part of it. Deploring materialism and its institutions, Mr Reagan said: "But from those terrible places have come survivors, witnesses to the triumph of the human spirit over the mystique of state power, prisoners whose spiritual values made them the rulers of their world."

With their survival, they brought us "the secret of the camps—a lesson for our time and for any age: Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid."

This is nineteenth-century optimism, which in Europe at least has been shattered by the twentieth century. It is rather disconcerting that the President of the United States should believe it. Fortunately, he does not believe that truth will prevail unassisted—after all, Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army, not by its inmates' spiritual values, and Mr Reagan has greatly increased the defence budget.

Other passages in his speech show a different confusion, "because ours is a consistent philosophy of government," he said, "We can be very clear: We do not have a separate social agenda, a separate economic agenda, and a separate foreign agenda. We have one agenda."

Just as surely as we seek to put our financial house in order and rebuild our nation's defences, so too we seek to protect the unborn, to end the manipulation of school children

by utopian planners, and permit the acknowledgement of Supreme Being in our classrooms."

This is not one agenda, one philosophy, but a collection of policies that are deemed conservative because the conservatives embrace them. The Moral Majority, which is no part of CPAC, falls into the same confusion. In its state of various evils it observes in modern America, including abortion, pornography and "the abandonment of Taiwan."

In a panegyric on Mr Reagan, CPAC boasted that he was not an intellectual. It also claimed that he has simple tastes and no experience in foreign affairs. The way to take him, at this stage of his presidency, is literally to assume, until proof to the contrary, that he is an intellectual, exactly what he says. "We are not cutting the budget simply for the sake of sounder financial management. This is only the first step towards returning power to the states and communities, only a first step towards redefining the relationship between citizens and government."

"We must remove government's smothering hand from where it does harm: we must seek to revitalize the proper functions of the state. But we do these things to set loose again the energy and ingenuity of the American people."

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Washington Commentary

Patrick Brogan

President Reagan has spoken more than he has acted so far, but his every act has conformed to his speeches. It was a very conservative budget that he sent to Congress, though the deficit is going to be larger than the one Jimmy Carter proposed.

Mr Haig does propose an intransigently hardline foreign policy, however. United with Undersecretaries may be. The Secretary of the Interior is carrying out a conservative revolution in his department, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services is busily purging the welfare rolls of the undeserving poor.

All these matters are credit to the heart of the CPAC, and it was delighted at the speech Mr Reagan delivered last Friday. We were told that the speech was to be a statement of the conservative philosophy of the Reagan Administration, and it included a measure of dogma. Whether it added up to a philosophy is another matter.

There was, for instance, a statement of a religious faith in the inevitability of the

recovery of the productive efforts. It is a continuation of a programme begun in 1978 and 1979, with fiscal adjustments and income and wages compression. It does not include any exchange rate devaluation. We have argued that Jamaica has to be competitive in an exterior sense."

Mr Rhodes said the was optimistic that Jamaica can turn the situation around "once the package is approved."

Mr Edward Seaga's Government realized that it "was necessary to move rapidly in order to get the country moving again," he added, underlining the fact that Jamaica would be paying commercial interest rates on the loans.

Mr Seaga's conservative Jamaica Labour Party won a landslide victory in last October's general elections over the socialist People's National Party of Mr Michael Manley, gaining 51 of the 60 seats in the ballot.

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Canada and West Germany, and four multilateral and bilateral organizations, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Commonwealth Development Corporation; and about \$300m from the IMF.

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Tug-of-war likely with Brazil on Biggs

From Jeremy Taylor
Bridgetown, Barbados, March 26

Britain and Brazil seem to be heading for a tug-of-war over Ronald Biggs, the British train robber, who is still in police custody in Barbados.

According to the British High Commission here, extradition papers are being prepared in London, but a spokesman declined to say when they would arrive in Barbados.

There is much local speculation over the reason for the British delay, which one legal source involved in the case has described as "incredible."

After an early yashow of indifference, Brazil is pressing for the extradition of Mr Biggs, together with the five men on board the chartered yacht *Nowcan II* from which Mr Biggs was taken off by Barbados immigration officials on Monday night. But the grounds of the Brazilian move are still far from clear.

Mr Biggs made a short court appearance in Bridgetown today as his lawyers in Barbados challenged his continued detention. A decision is expected to be given tomorrow morning. Tonight, Mr Biggs was back in his temporary quarters in Bridgetown's central police station.

Barbados is clearly weighing its options carefully. Though there is no formal extradition treaty between Barbados and Britain, there are arrangements, known as the High Commission puts it, under which, extradition is possible.

One possibility is that Mr Biggs will be declared a prohibited immigrant and deported to his country of origin, where he still has 28 years of a 30 year sentence to serve.

Meanwhile, he has become a celebrity in Barbados. Cheerful and full of jokes, he was whisked away from the court today through a back door.

He says his former wife, Charmian, who now lives in Australia, and believes that he would not have to serve more than five years if returned to Britain.

A great deal of mystery still surrounds his kidnapping from Brazil last week. There is also a legal dispute about whether the yacht that carried him was within Barbados' territorial waters when it was intercepted by British ships.

There is speculation about whether the yacht was heading for Barbados, or not.

True blue Americans approve Reagan course

The most conservative of conservative Americans, the guardians of the true faith, gathered in a Washington hotel last week to congratulate themselves on winning the last presidential election. It was the annual convention of the Conservative Political Action Committee (CPAC) and their president, Ronald Reagan, came along to eat real, strawberries and jelly beans with them.

All but the most intransigently pure of them gave him unstinting adulation. Those who do not share the faith find it rather difficult to conceive of any substantial way in which the President might dispense the far right, but there were in that assembly a few doubters.

Had not Mr Reagan chosen George Bush as Vice-President, a notorious right-winger, and Alexander Haig as Secretary of State, a known associate of Henry Kissinger, who believes in détente?

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Lebanon sends more troops south

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, March 26

The Lebanese Government is to send additional units of the regular army to southern Lebanon, according to reports in Beirut this afternoon. The increased deployment would bring Lebanese troop strength in the south to 1,500 soldiers, all of whom would operate inside the area controlled by the United Nations.

Beirut newspapers reported that President Sarkis had discussed the new deployment with his army commander who was this evening meeting Mr General William Callaghan, the United Nations commander.

No date has yet been fixed for the reinforcements to go south. Israeli radio reported yesterday that both Mr Mazen Haddad, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Major Saad Haddad, whose militias control the Lebanese frontier area, would resist any advance by the Army to the Israeli border.

There are no plans to send the Lebanese Army into the enclave controlled by Major Haddad—indeed Lebanese troops would not have the strength to enter this zone—

but units are expected to be sent into the villages of Shakra and Bradich, scarcely five and a half miles from the Israeli frontier.

The figure of 1,500 troops appears to have been fixed under the 1949 armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel. According to a newspaper, *Al-Nahar*, Mr Brian Urquhart, an assistant to Dr. Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, will try to revive the armistice agreement when he visits Lebanon next month.

Since President Sarkis and President Assad of Syria met last week, the Israelis have claimed that any deployment of Lebanese troops in the United Nations area would represent an operation undertaken at the behest of Syria. Lebanese troops have already begun parading inside the United Nations zone.

Israeli anger: The Israeli military command today denounced a reported pledge by General Callaghan, to bring all of Lebanon under the control of the Lebanese Army (Musha).

Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: In an extraordinary official communiqué, the army accused the Irish general of "disrespect for human rights" and "violation of the United Nations force were killed and wounded last week in shelling by Major Haddad's militiamen after Lebanese regulars had been deployed near Nigerian

European Parliament ignores prices curb and votes farmers 12%

From David Wood
European Political Editor
Strasbourg, March 26

The European Parliament did not practise here today what it has preached for years about curbing the farmers' share of the Community budget.

It voted for a 12 per cent increase in 1981 farm prices compared to the European Commission's recommendation of an average increase of 7.8 per cent. The motion was carried by 107 votes to 53. Cops, the European farmers' organization, has urged the Council of Ministers for 15 per cent so as to keep pace with inflation.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the commissioner in charge of the budget, remarked that by 1982 the Parliament's proposed increase would double the cost the Commission had budgeted for, and farm support costs would rise above the rate of increase in EEC revenues.

The final decision on farm price rests with the EEC agricultural ministers, in other words, with the 10 national governments. But undoubtedly the Parliament showed that the Commission has been deserted by its main ally and has lost the battle for price curbs in 1981 and 1982.

Mr David Curry, the Conservative MEP and a member of the agriculture committee, said that in budget debates all members of the European Parliament were heroes, but on farm prices they were mice.

Debate in the European Parliament today announced plans to boost farmers' income in Denmark, Ireland, France, Italy and Greece in the hope that EEC agricultural ministers will then be able to accept the 7.5 per cent price increase it has proposed for

this year (Peter Norman writes from Brussels).

The Commission will tell the ministers when they meet in Brussels next Monday that it plans to use last weekend's 2.53 per cent revaluation of the European currency unit—in which all EEC farm prices are fixed—to push through devaluations of the exchange rates at the unit prices are translated into the currencies of member states.

These devaluations of the so-called "green" rates would lift the guaranteed farm prices paid in Italy by 9.08 per cent, Greece by 2.88 per cent, in France by 2.33 per cent and in Denmark by 2.53 per cent. This would go some way in answering the farmers' complaints that the proposed EEC price rise would not compensate them.

British protest: British farmers protested yesterday against the impact of the latest EEC currency changes (Our Agricultural Correspondent writes).

The realignment of national exchange rates with the European currency unit could weaken the competitive position of British agriculture.

The changes will lead to a cut of about 2 per cent in the value of the positive monetary compensatory amount which protects British farmers against cheap imports.

Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, said in London that the new rates would give some countries the chance to raise farm prices by devaluing their green currencies. "The British farmer will not be open to the United Kingdom, even though net farm incomes have fallen by much more than the EEC average."

Britain pessimistic about EEC fisheries accord

By Hugh Clayton

British ministers see virtually no hope of reaching agreement at today's Brussels EEC meeting about fish policy. Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said in London yesterday: "I think it will be a very difficult meeting. I do not see that there is any sign of understanding of our requirements. If there is not, there will not be an agreement."

Officials in London emphasized that success today would depend on a change of attitude by France on access to British waters and by the European Commission on support prices. The Government saw no sign of either.

Mr Walker spent more than two hours in the morning with Mr Daniel Hoefel, the French Minister of Fisheries. The French team made it clear that Paris was not prepared to reduce its claim for access to British waters.

But the two ministers, who met at RAF Northolt, near

London, agreed that the Commission's latest plan to raise support prices by 12 per cent was inadvisable. Mr Walker insisted today that Britain cannot accept less than 20 per cent in a complicated deal that would unlock access to Canadian waters for West German trawlers.

Mr David Aitchison, the chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said: "We are prepared to go along with the stand the Government made in December. This present difficulty all goes back to French intransigence then. I think our minister has got it under control. Our federation is satisfied with him."

Mr Nigel Atkins, the director-general of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, which represents England, Wales and Scotland, said: "The minister made it perfectly clear that there was no intention of departing from his resolute stance with the Community. We endorse that."

Clear majority for Chun party in South Korea

From Jacqueline Reddy

South Korea's general election has resulted in a clear victory for President Chun's Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

All but two of its 92 candidates in the constituencies were elected. The main opposition Democratic Korea Party (DKP) won 57 seats and the Korean National Party (KNP)—most of whose members supported the previous regime of the assassinated President Park—won 13 seats.

Eleven independents won parliamentary seats and the rest of the seats were divided among five minor parties. These include the Democratic Socialist Party which won two seats and will be represented in Parliament for the first time since 1961 when President Park seized power in a right-wing military coup.

Under a proportional representation system, on top of the 276 seats in the polls, a third of the 276 seats in the new parliament will be allocated to the three biggest parties—the DJP, the DKP and the KNP.

This gives the DJP a clear overall majority with a total of 1 seats, or 54.7 per cent, compared with the DKP's total of 29 seats, or 29.3 per cent.

Ten women stood in the election but only one, Mrs Kim Jong Rye of the DJP, was successful.

Foreign report
is on page 17

Interim Zia constitution ends independence of judiciary

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, March 26

new restrictions on superior court powers by the Pakistani authorities are regarded in all circles as almost liquidating the judiciary's independence.

The changes, introduced by President Zia-ul-Haq's Cabinet in an interim constitution, have had cost eight senior judges their positions refusing to take an oath of office under the new constitution. Politicians and lawyers on the judges' refusal as a sign of great significance.

Islamabad has been ruled by a military law since July 7. President Zia recently fulfilled his Cabinet, appointing a number of civilians. But he has hinted at giving Government a broader base and more civilian

participation, he firmly rejects general elections and transfer of power now as national suicide.

The interim constitution is apparently designed to overcome constitutional, legal and political obstacles that could prevent him implementing executive, legal and political Islamization, and to prevent the threat to integrity and ideology.

Some of the important clauses seek to debar all political parties considered to be working against the ideology and interests of Pakistan, and there will be restrictions on the jurisdiction of the superior courts in issuing writs against detentions and fundamental rights as enshrined in the 1973 constitution. All martial law ordinances will be consolidated to deal with

the situation arising from the imposition of martial law in July, 1977.

Part of the 1973 constitution will be retained but the rest kept in abeyance. Instead of the elected Parliament there will be a *Majlis-e-shura* and vice-presidents will be appointed.

The preamble to the constitution refers to the imposition of martial law after the anti-Bhutto agitation in 1977 and explains that the enactment of a provisional constitution had become necessary because doubts had arisen about the powers and jurisdiction of the superior courts in dealing with recent government orders and actions.

The preamble, however, reaffirms the President's eventual object of reintroducing democracy.

A purge of what are con-

sidered to be undesirable, anti-martial law and anti-Islam elements in the political parties is sought under the new constitution. This is by all indications aimed against the Pakistan People's Party of the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Socialist Party and all other parties with a secular approach to politics.

Once again in Pakistan's 33-year history the constitutional issues are in the melting pot.

The first post-independence constitution evolved in 1956 by a constituent assembly was scrapped two years later by Pakistan's first chief martial law administrator, General Ayub Khan, chief of the Army Staff, who offered his own constitution in 1962.

That, too, was abrogated by his successor, General Yahya Khan, in 1969. He sought to

introduce his own interim constitution but the Bangladesh war intervened and he was succeeded by Mr Bhutto, who provided an interim constitution.

Later, in 1973, an all-party agreement was reached in the National Assembly which framed the constitution for the country, providing a federal bicameral system of parliamentary government.

The most crucial issue in the constitution making has been the latent fear among the smaller federating units of the political and economic dominance of the major unit and it is obvious that if a new constitution were to be framed by a representative parliament it would come up against these very issues with once again mutual confidence, being eroded.

President Siad Barre's political position is more precarious than at any time in 11 years of power

Somalia's refugee problem aggravated by food and fuel shortages

This is the first of two articles on the problems of Somalia by Arthur Jones, diplomatic correspondent of the American newspaper The National Catholic Reporter, who has recently returned from Somalia.

Somalia's worsening refugee problem is aggravated by food and fuel shortages, wholesale food theft from some camps and problems of aid coordination stemming from a shaky start two years ago by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

No one knows how many refugees are already in camps. The Somali Government's National Refugee Commission estimated 1.3m in December, 1980. The UNHCR predicts 1.3m by June, 1981, and possibly 1.6m by the end of the year if the rains fail.

There are fears that hundreds of thousands more are still to come. Government sources claim there are perhaps 700,000 semi-refugees wandering around inside Somalia with the remnants of their herds. And according to one official's estimate, there could be up to a million more prospective refugees still to come in from Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Somalia with its population

of only 3,500,000 is unequipped to absorb them.

President Muhammad Siad Barre is said to have sunk to the most politically precarious level of his 11 years in power. Many Somalis now believe that his 1977 Ogaden war debacle and the apparent crumbling of his pan-Somali dream should have resulted in his resignation. But he continues to hold on, keeping a military and tribal balance of support and government. He allows the United States to use the former Soviet base at Berbera has failed to bring the strengthening of relations with Washington.

While Western relief workers have privately accused the Barre Government of inflating refugee figures or crying wolf over food and fuel shortages, none denies the gravity of the present refugee situation.

Everyone is now waiting to see whether the seasonal rains, which have lately begun, portend a return to normalcy. For the past two years the rains have begun poorly and tapered to almost nothing.

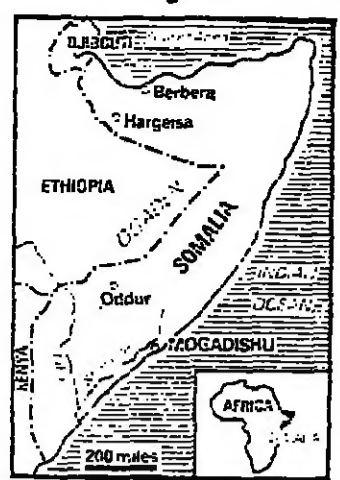
The Juba and Shebelle rivers, which had gone dry in some places, are now in flood and

the movement of relief supplies to the camps is being hampered on flooded roads.

Many of the refugees arrive in Somalia in a very bad condition, and the wet conditions in camps raise the real threat of cholera.

Today, a Somali UNHCR team reportedly reported between two and six deaths a day, from tuberculosis and other diseases, in a camp with perhaps 10,000 refugees. Again, no one was certain about the number there. The camp commander claimed 15,700 refugees, the refugee commissioner estimated 7,500 but allowed food for 10,000.

The commissioner, Said Mohammed Indigire, in an effort to stop commodity thefts elsewhere in the region, has dismissed three camp commanders. While the Somali Government thus begins to take tough measures against "midnight redistribution", as voluntary agency staff call it, UNHCR is strengthening its own monitoring system. The League of Red Cross Societies and the United States Agency for International Development both have staff members making spot checks on delivery lorries.



The refugees' plight has been worsened by fuel uncertainties, and poor systems of food delivery have been much criticized in reports by the American State Department inspector general, and by a United Nations-funded private consultant, Interact of Dallas. Less published but well-circulated memoranda produced by the voluntary agencies have also been critical.

UNHCR officials in Mogadishu insist that the coordination is slowly coming under control after a long period of poor response to the increasing refugee numbers. With practically all supplies to the more than 40 camps having to come from Mogadishu port, fuel for the lorries has been critical. But even when UNHCR and refugee commission vehicles had fuel allocations, they did not have their own pump. That meant relief trucks waiting in line with all other government vehicles for up to seven hours simply to fill up with diesel.

UNHCR officials are particularly sensitive to criticism after 1979 months' public attack in Nairobi by Oxfam and Save the Children Fund on "bureaucratic bashing" of relief efforts in the Karamoja region of Uganda. In Mogadishu, voluntary agency staff are generally waiting to see whether the UNHCR can bring commodity distribution under control.

Somalia is trying to absorb its second wave of refugees in seven years. During the 1974-75 drought, arrangements were begun to resettle some of the 250,000 refugees. But the Somali Government has repeatedly stated it expects these

new refugees to return home eventually. Given that many of the approximately 1 million refugees have fled the Ogaden since the fighting started in 1977, observers believe that irrespective of government wishes, long-term refugee settlement has to be considered.

Not counting money and services brought in by voluntary agencies, the Somali refugee effort, even without development or resettlement costs, is expected to exceed \$200m (£89m) this year. Any new surge of refugees could make even that figure woefully inadequate.

Now is this influx of food and services necessary a stabilizing influence. Somalia itself is one of the world's poorest nations, in such unhappy company as Haiti, Ethiopia and Bangladesh. And the indigenous Somalis, who until now have uncomplainingly welcomed a million Somali-speaking refugees, have started to complain. For in a country where the average inhabitant is underfed, Somalia sees the refugees obtaining guaranteed daily food and medical services—privileges which they do not share.

Next: Economic decline

Prison governors to strike in Italy

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 26

The governors of Italy's prisons are to go on strike on Saturday. Apart from a symbolic protest in 1977, it is the first time the prison governors have taken such action.

They are calling for better pay but, more important, they are challenging the Government's attitude to prison policy. They accused the public that there would be no mass escapes on Saturday. The 306 governors have plans for further stoppages including demonstrations outside the Ministry of Justice.

The governors have some strong cards up their sleeve. A prolonged strike could well mean the suspension of wages to the prison warders and also to convicts who work. They need not do a lot to bring about a sharp rise in tension inside the overcrowded prisons.

The prison system, and in particular the maximum security blocks, are now one of the main targets of the left-wing terrorists. Earlier this month two men were murdered by fellow-prisoners in Novara prison. The government points out that the space of a few weeks two of their number have been dismissed, one for being too hard

and the other for too much democratic sensitivity.

One of the principal demands of the governors is for decentralization of the prison system. They say that at present it is controlled from Rome by the Ministry of Justice which is staffed by members of the judiciary, not by persons familiar with the problems of the prisons. They hope to see a delegation of authority to regional experts whose efforts would be supervised by a corps of inspectors working for the central government.

The warders are also demanding a totally different treatment by the government, including better wages and clearer status.

Vatican talks: The Pope has agreed to meet representatives of the Vatican's workers' association on April 6 to discuss their demands for better wages and shorter hours, the workers said (AP reports from Rome).

The employees had threatened to hold a silent, orderly protest march through the Vatican gardens in early April if their demands were not met. They said today that they would probably now cancel the march.

Deterrent has preserved peace, minister says

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Defending Britain's continuing role as a nuclear weapons power, Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, said yesterday that the policy of deterrence combined with arms control had proved successful in preserving the peace between East and West.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) had failed to make its case, he said.

"Because our policy is working, I do not believe that nuclear war is likely today, despite the understandable public anxiety," Sir Ian said, adding: "We are not on the brink."

Speaking at the University of London Institute of Education—the first time that a minister in the present Government had appeared on a platform with CND members—Sir Ian said that nuclear weapons provided the best protection Britain had that such weapons

would never be used or threatened against us.

Addressing the annual conference of the Council for Education in World Citizenship, he said that the dual policy of deterrence and arms control had been pursued consistently over many years by all the governments of both parties in Britain and by all our allies.

The fact that it had kept the peace was a big achievement particularly where the divisions in Europe were so deep and the potential points of friction so many.

Attacking what he termed the "myths" of the CND case, Sir Ian said it was nonsense to suppose that those who were against unilateral nuclear disarmament were somehow for nuclear war. Both the Government and CND were at one in their abhorrence of nuclear war. What divided them was not the end but the means to achieve it.



Strong arm of the law. Police clear squatters from the Kreuzberg district of West Berlin after bank and shop windows were smashed.

Prince sets up party to fight Vietnamese

From Peking, March 26

Prince Sihanouk, the former Kampuchean head of state, confirmed today that he has set up his own political party to fight against the Vietnamese in Kampuchea.

He also announced that he was preparing to meet a special envoy of President Suharto of Indonesia in Pyongyang, North Korea next week.

The envoy, Mr Anwar Sari, will arrive in Pyongyang with the task of encouraging (the prince) in the name of the member-countries of the Association of South-east Asian nations (Asean) in his attempt to group together the armed anti-Vietnamese resistance forces.

Prince Sihanouk made these statements in a telephone call from the North Korean capital where he is living in exile, to Agence France-Presse in Peking.

The prince's party is called the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Kampuchea, he said. It was seeking a military alliance with the armed forces of the Khmer Rouge and the armed forces of Mr Son Sann, the former Prime Minister.

The Khmer Rouge are the main armed resistance movement fighting against Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea and Mr Son Sann, who served as head of government under Prince Sihanouk, heads the biggest anti-communist resistance group.

New wave of unrest among Albanians in Yugoslavia

From Dassa Trevisan
Belgrade, March 26

A new wave of Albanian student unrest broke out in Yugoslavia's autonomous region of Kosovo where last night several thousand students occupied university hostels and barricaded themselves against the police.

They have begun a strike over a series of grievances which are yet to be disclosed. This comes two weeks after a students' march in the streets of Pristina, the region's capital, in protest against living and other economic conditions. The authorities later said that hostile groups had tried to take advantage of the grievances.

The disclosure that new and obviously more serious trouble was brewing was made today by Mr Drasa Markovic, the president of the Yugoslav Federal Parliament.

Rumours of trouble have

persisted since a fire destroyed a Serbian Orthodox rectory in Pec, the historic town in the region and a symbol of Serbian Christianity. An investigation has been suggested that it was a case of arson directed against Serbs.

Unconfirmed reports persist of similar unrest in Pziren, another historic town in Kosovo, where Albanian students are said to have demolished a high school.

The authorities are said to have started negotiations with the students in Pristina but again there is no official disclosure of what provoked the new wave of protests.

Nevertheless it is clear that the unrest of Albanian students in the region is alarming the authorities especially as in other Yugoslav university centres Albanian students have been holding protest meetings.

Four executed for coup plot in Mauritania

Nouakchott, March 26

Four military officers convicted of taking part in an abortive coup in Mauritania last week were executed by firing squad today.

Journalists watched the execution of the officers. They were condemned last Tuesday and President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidera declined to exercise his right of clemency.

Two lieutenant-colonels, Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi and Abdelkader Ould Bah, were accused of being the coup leaders. The other two executed were lieutenants.

Morocco has denied Mauritanian accusations of involvement in the coup attempt.

Dozens fall ill after dining at summit meeting buffet

Maastricht, March 26

Dozens of foreign journalists and officials have fallen violently ill after dining at a free buffet at the close of the European summit here on Tuesday.

The crippling effects of the food poisoning were not fully realized until this morning, when it became clear that at least 100 of the guests were suffering from king-size headaches, stomach cramps and diarrhoea.

Local officials had done everything possible to make the event memorable. It certainly will be remembered but not in the manner intended.

Samples of the food were

sent to scientists when the first signs of food poisoning were reported, and results of their laboratory tests will be known tomorrow.

Many special correspondents sent to cover the summit felt the symptoms after returning home. One German reporter was admitted to hospital.

Dutch guests were not spared the calamity. Police had joined in the feasting, along with the province's entire information department staff, 15 local officials, Foreign Ministry press officers and the Dutch spokesman in Brussels.

Today they were all regretting it—Agence France-Presse.

Aborigines demand more than offered

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, March 26

Nearly 200 years after the arrival of Europeans in Australia, the Government is ready to negotiate with the Aborigines a formal agreement covering land rights and other outstanding issues.

The Government has agreed to "acknowledge" that Australia was occupied first by Aborigines. But Aborigines are still demanding to be recognized as the original owners of the land.

Senator Peter Baume, the

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, said yesterday that the Government was willing to pursue the concept of a *makarrata*, an Aboriginal word meaning the resumption of normal relationships after a period of disagreement. State governments have also agreed to discuss the proposal with the National Aboriginal Council.

The council has consulted Aboriginal communities at length about a *makarrata*, and is trying to win a set amount of federal funding based on the size of the Aboriginal population compared with the total Australian population; seats in Parliament reserved for Aborigines; positive discrimination in favour of Aborigines seeking Government employment, and teaching of Aboriginal culture in schools.

It is also seeking the freehold title of all land now occupied by Aborigines, protection of sacred sites and compensation for losses of land.

The Government, however, has ruled out the first three of these proposals.

PARLIAMENT, March 26, 1981

Mr Pincher's account of Lord Trend's conclusions is wrong—Mrs Thatcher

House of Commons
The Prime Minister, after consultations with the Leader of the Opposition, has asked the Security Commission to review the security procedures and practices currently following in the public service and to consider what, if any, changes are required.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher made the announcement in a long statement about the security implications of the book *The Treachery* by Mr Chapman Pincher published today, which purportedly said to give a detailed account of the investigations into the penetration of the Security Service and other parts of the public service following the defection of Burgess and Maclean.

The events into which these investigations began well over 40 years ago. Many of those named or implicated in this book as having been subject of investigation have died. Others have long since retired. None of them is still in the public service.

The extent of penetration was thought to be investigated after the defection of Burgess and Maclean, as indeed the author of this book makes clear. The book contains no information of security significance which is new to the security authorities. And some of the material is inaccurate or distorted.

All the cases of individuals referred to have been the subject of long and thorough investigation. The investigations into the possibilities of past penetration have been fully extended. They have covered not only those suspected of being guilty, but also all those who could conceivably fit into the inconclusive leads available.

The fact that somebody has been the subject of investigation does not necessarily or even generally mean that he has been positively suspected. Many people have had to be investigated simply in order to eliminate them from the enquiry.

The results of the investigations into Philby and Blunt are now well known. There were good reasons for suspecting a few others, but as it was not possible to secure evidence on which charges could be brought, they were required to resign or were moved to work where they had no access to classified information. Many others were eliminated from suspicion.

Apart from the much alleged, which I was told to be a proof, I placed upon those who seek to establish guilt and not on those who defend innocence.

But no evidence was found that it implicated him, and the conclusion reached was that he had not been an agent of the Russian Intelligence Service.

This view was challenged, however, by a very few of those concerned, and in July, 1974, Lord Trend, the former Secretary of the Cabinet, was asked to review in detail the investigations that had taken place into the case of Sir Roger Hollis.

The case for investigating Sir Roger Hollis was based on certain leads which suggested, but did not prove, that there had been a Russian Intelligence Service agent in the last years of the war.

None of these leads identified Sir Roger Hollis, or pointed specifically to him, or solely in his direction; each of them could also be taken as pointing to Philby or Blunt. But he was among those that fitted some of them, and he was therefore investigated.

The investigation took place after Sir Roger Hollis's retirement from the Security Service, and it was conclusively proven his innocence; indeed it is very often impossible to prove innocence; that is why in the past we have had to rely on the evidence of those who seek to establish guilt and not on those who defend innocence.

He agreed that none of the relevant leads identified Sir Roger Hollis as an agent of the Russian Intelligence Service, and that each of them could be explained by reference to Philby or Blunt.

Lord Trend did not refer to the possibility that Hollis might have been more responsible to the Security Service than he was.

In the connection with the Security Commission at present contains no person who has ever been suspected of being a security service agent. Will she consider the possibility of adding to the commission for its review one or more suitable persons who have had dealings with the Security Service?

Mrs Thatcher: No. The Security Commission has been set up and in existence for some time. It is a security service, and it is not a political body. It is not a political body, and it is not a political body.

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Reference to Security Commission supported

Questioning the Prime Minister on her statement, Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab), said: Although it is not always the custom for statements to be made to the House of Commons, she is right to have done so in this instance. The House and the country will be grateful.

She has used the word 'statement' in different parts of it, that much of the material is 'unsubstantiated, some of it untrue, some of it inaccurate and some of it distorted'.

That factor has to be taken into account as well, because, of course, misjudged and defamed by these methods. People should take account of these questions when they write about the living, as well as the dead.

Some of the reports which people have written in some newspapers have presented material which is not only inaccurate or distorted, as if it was almost proven and unchallengeable.

That leads also to grave injustice. We have to take these matters into account, as well as the important security matters raised.

When she put to me the proposal for having an investigation and the terms of reference suggested, I thought that it was the right way of covering up, and the House to take and I support it.

Will she call the attention of the House to the statement by the previous Leader of the Labour Party (Mr Callaghan) when it was debated in the House on November 21, 1974, that he made a statement then and a recommendation to the Government about the appointment of an inquiry?

He said that there should be an inquiry. He went on to say that we could discuss how it was done, but his terms of reference were, and which the Government and the House to take and I support it.

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UK interest rates below average

Interest rates in Britain had come down to their lowest level since the war and were now below the average for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, said Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said at a press conference.

He was answering Mr Stanley Newman (Harlow, Lab) who said: Present levels of interest rates are too low and are one of the causes of over-inflation of sterling which is a serious and formidable obstacle to our exports.

Interest rates ought to have come down another 2 per cent and until such time as they have reached that level.

When is the Chancellor going to take action? Sir Geoffrey Howe (East Surrey, C): He ought to acknowledge the

significance of the substantial reduction already achieved. There is no reliable and certain relationship between interest rates and exchange rates.

Mr Peter Shore, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stephen and Poplar, Lab): The latest company reports show that the economy is doing well.

This follows a long list of collapses and near collapses by many of the great British exporting companies.

Interest rates, and particularly the relationship between interest rates and exchange rates, is of crucial importance.

When is the Chancellor going to take action to bring down the over-high exchange rate of the pound?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The experience of successive governments

has been that there is no direct or simple link between interest rates and exchange rates.

The important thing is that there is a good case in its own right for securing a reduction in interest rates which is responsible monetary policy.

He should not fall into the common trap of assuming that all the difficulties facing the country are the responsibility of Government policies (Labour interruptions).

Companies in the motor industry throughout the world are making substantial losses because of what is happening to that industry. Sir Geoffrey Howe said later: The prospects are that inflation will continue to rise and that the exchange rate will be forced to come down.

THE ARTS

Extravagant ham hits the target

Stir Crazy (AA)
ColumbiaNo Nukes (A)
Screen on the Green;
Odeons, Kensington
and Hammersmith;
Studio, Oxford StreetSphinx (AA)
Warner West End

There is less and less accounting for public reaction to films. *Stir Crazy* is on the face of it a farcical comedy no better than most and worse than many. So why should it suddenly boom as a craze with American audiences, staying in *Variety's* New York Top Grossing Films chart for 13 weeks, and taking upwards of twenty-one million dollars—more even than the phenomenal Clint Eastwood vehicle *Every Which Way You Can*?

The script doggedly parodies every regular character and incident of the prison film genre: the venal warden, sadistic screws and bad cons; the Big Bad Bill who gets to be Sweet William and the predatory homosexual homicide, Sidney Poitier has never been uncritically a lightweight actor; as a director of comedy he wields a distinctly heavy hand. The secret of the film, then, must presumably lie in the chemistry of teaming Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor—already tested when they appeared together in *Silver Streak*. The chemistry is rather odd, at that, since Pryor is so evidently much more resourceful than Wilder.

Wilder succumbs to the inconsistencies of his part, hams

it all up extravagantly, and somehow salvages a fit-whore-itouches characterization of a creature of blindly idiotic optimism and good will, always ready to separate a pair of fighting killers, and treating the prison guards as if they were gentlemen. Pryor is much more certain of his character—which is very little to do with the scabrous, aggressive figure of Richard Pryor Live in Concert. Under the pressures of prison life, Pryor's black man reverts to a racial wariness built up over generations. With his rich variety of tics and face-pullings and baby whimpers, Pryor is proof that a good comic is also a good actor.

No Nukes is a very touching document. It is a record of a series of great concert-rallies held in the autumn of 1979—exactly a decade after the open-air performances commemorated in *Woodstock*. Still, Nash are still around, somewhat more subdued and sober, and definitely older. Maybe it is the result of the rather more formal arrangements of the concerts in Madison Square Gardens and the audience, too, seems less uninhibited and carefree than the flower-children who lounged so lovingly and decoratively in the Elysium of *Woodstock*.

Pop musicians are, of course, the new moralists, leaders and examples of the young; and the concerts recorded in *No Nukes* were presented as occasions for concern. The events were organized by MUSE, the Musicians' Union for Safe Energy, activated by such performers as Jackson Browne, Graham Nash, Bonnie Raitt and John Hall. The stars donated their services, and the large proceeds of the concerts (and of the film) go to the organization, across America which are fighting against nuclear pollution.

The romanticism of the undertaking is touching, again. Something of the wacky flower-child idealism still survives in this campaign whose concern seems, from their statements, to be less for safe energy, than for no energy. Better, they declare



Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor discover they are suspects in a bank robbery

with poetic vagueness, to use the energy of the sun; to use the energy they are generating from rock-and-roll. It is a sympathetic but hardly convincing political cry.

There is more conviction in the little film-within-the-film documentary which was screened during an intermission in the concert. Rather economically it explores, in flash interviews, both concern and uncertainty about the dreadful prospects revealed by the Three Mile Island accident. Even more sinister now is an army documentary made in 1952 to reassure United States soldiers who were about to be exposed in the range of nuclear detonation.

An army padre grows lyrical about the wondrous lights and heavenly ascent of the atomic mushroom; and the rookies listen doubtfully. Three decades on, we are shown a veteran from this period, dying of leukaemia and feeling, somehow, that the army has betrayed him.

The principal audience for the film (as well, presumably, as for the original concert) is likely to be less concerned with the message than the music. The *Woodstock* era stars inevitably fade beside the much younger, more vigorous and in a sense more professional talents of the newest rock-and-roll superstar, Bruce Springsteen. The release of the film in London is nicely timed as a consolation to the sell-out

audiences who have been disappointed by the postponement of Springsteen's British tour this month (on account of bronchitis, clearly a serious handicap to his very vocal act). Lesley-Ann Down, an artless actress, has inherited the long-discarded mantle of Pearl White and The Perils of Pauline. In *Sphinx* she plays a scholarly Egyptologist (you can tell because she has a notebook, takes snaps of camels in front of the Great Pyramid and reads ancient hieroglyphics as if they were Bird's-Eye packets) who arrives for her first visit to Cairo and in no time is caught up in the murderous underworld of the black market in antiquities.

In the course of the next hundred minutes, she witnesses assorted murders, is threatened, shot at, imprisoned, indecently assaulted, taken by surprise in her hotel room, incarcerated in a burial chamber (where she ingeniously uses the mummified parts of her fellow-inmates as torches), strangled by bats and all but entombed in another funeral vault. Between times she involves herself affectionately with two obvious bad lots, steals a lorry for one of the silliest automobile races in unhappy memory, and utters a few half-thoughts on women's lib.

As the plot and dialogue grow progressively sillier, amazement mounts that so much talent can be expended

on a script that is the pulpst of pulp (the original novel, by Robin Cook, who wrote *Conan*, is said to be much better, but the film is small incentive to explore in that direction). Frank Schaffner, in films like *The War Lord* or *Paton*, has in the past appeared to be a director of forceful narrative ability. The art work, recreating ancient and modern Egypt in the Budapest studios, is exemplary. The photography (Ernest Day) is often ravishing, with some dazzling travelogue scenes of Egypt, including a staggering aerial view of the Sphinx. The supporting players include Sir John Gielgud, who plays for which, and conscientiously as a mischievous old antique dealer who gets murdered in reel two. The only major miscalculation, aside from the script, is the music, which is slushy enough and loud enough to sink four *Laurencés of Arabia*.

Hollywood has always, I suppose, made this kind of film, like, in its pitiful kind, to some beautiful, well-made, golden child with the brain of a reindeer. As proof that it could be done better, it is worth recalling that a decade ago a fine Egyptian film, Shadi Abdel-Salam's *The Night of Counting the Years*, treated very much the same story of people living off the treasures of their forefathers' tombs, with skill, subtlety and poetry.

David Robinson

A singer of many colours



Renato Bruson: "Verdi's Macbeth for me is almost a passive creature..."

Renato Bruson sings Macbeth for the first time in London tonight in a new production by Eljah Moshinsky for Covent Garden. Over the past few weeks he has probably had to discard most of the ideas generated the last time he appeared in Verdi's opera. That was in Berlin. The director was Luca Ronconi, who has just staged Stockhausen's *Donnerstag aus Licht* at La Scala, as William Mann reported last week. Ronconi dressed his cast in red, left the stage completely bare and used light only to illumine the faces of his singers.

However, Bruson is used to changing his colours. He is a neat, compact man, with the serious attentiveness and courtesy of a lawyer of good standing. The on-stage appearance has little to do with the off-stage, apart from the identifying mark of the beard which he declines to shave whatever the role. Macbeth and he are well acquainted. He first sang the part, improbably enough, in Pretoria in 1967. He was appearing in *Andrea Chénier* in Brussels when a talent scout invited him to South Africa. So he became the sole Italian voice in a cast consisting entirely of Africaners performing in a non-toe-toe-known opera to an audience used to *Traviata* and *Bohème*.

Since then he has taken the role some seventy times: Naples, Padua, Bologna, Parma, Munich and then finally Berlin. And on the way his Macbeth has altered quite a lot. But he has altered gradually, that there are very considerable differences between the Macbeth created by Verdi and Pire and that of Shakespeare. When you first start to study a role it is reasonable enough to go back to original sources, but both styles and restrained, suggested that he might be a very good choice. While Macbeth has been in rehearsal Bruson and Eyre have taken the opportunity to talk.

"Among Verdi's baritone roles Macbeth is the most difficult. I'm appearing in a new production of that, probably by Otto Schenk, in Vienna with Alfredo Kraus, Illeana Cuorbas and Maestro Muti conducting. [Muti, who works regularly

with Bruson, is also in charge of the Covent Garden Macbeth. But Falstaff is the most interesting.

"There are quite a lot of misconceptions about Falstaff. He is not a clown nor a pugliaccio. Nor is he a red-faced buffoon with hair sticking out all over the place. He might be hard up, but he remains a gentleman. I haven't seen the opera very often on stage, but I can't say that I much cared for La Scala's version last Christmas.

"At what age should you first sing the part? I don't think that matters too much. When it was suggested to me I wondered whether I was too young and decided I wasn't. I know that Giuseppe Taddei, the most famous Falstaff I've come across, is still singing it at 64. But don't forget he was also playing it when he was 40. The cheering thing about Falstaff is that there is no legato required. If you are going to perform Iago then the voice must be in perfect condition; with Falstaff you can speak a little."

"Apart from Verdi—a *Bello in maschera* with Ricciardi and Domingo is awaiting release from Deutsche Grammophon—Renato Bruson's favourite composer is Donizetti. A few years ago he recorded an album of Donizetti arias on the Cime label, including a number of unfamiliar ones, which is perhaps why the disc has not yet been issued in Britain.

"My love for Donizetti was inspired by my singing teacher, a lady who was probably more interested in lieder than in opera. She taught me bel canto and there is no greater master of bel canto than Donizetti. I'm probably the first baritone this century to sing in 15 different operas by him and that number will go up to 17 by the end of the year when I've added *Faust* in Rome and *Il Duca d'Alba* in Florence next winter."

And beyond Donizetti? "Well, there is one obvious part which every baritone yearns to sing: Don Giovanni. While I've been in London I've been talking with Colin Davis about this. We could be performing it together before too long."

John Higgins

Bartók centenary concert

BBC SO/
Rozhdstevsky
Festival Hall/Radio 3

William Mann

Wednesday was the hundredth anniversary of Bartók's birth. Celebrations have already begun in Britain, and are likely to continue throughout the year. The BBC is paying homage to Bartók, in his centennial week, with 14 hours of radio and television, no problem for me in one day, I am sure, but supposedly very generous for a composer born only 100 years ago, and a programme designed for a multitude of listeners. The BBC has obtained the best spot in London for the birthday itself, the Festival Hall evening concert, traditionally theirs on a Wednesday. An important programme was

to be conducted by Gennadi Rozhdstevsky, with the imaginative choral Cantata profana, and the score of the little-known ballet, *The Wooden Prince*, as well as some Bartók songs scored by Zoltan Kodály. On Tuesday came the blow. The BBC Symphony Orchestra, due to embark on May 10 for a tour of the Far East (China, Korea and Japan), had to be inactivated against relevant diseases, six to eight weeks before arrival in those parts. Many of them went sick as a result, two or three days ago, and so two of the concert items had to be changed. The Bartók songs would be given with their original piano accompaniment, not with orchestral transcription by Bartók's great friend Kodály. The *Cantata profana*, much looked-forward-to, had to be replaced by the *Diversions* for strings, a crifle, however pleasing, from the interim before Bartók's final emigration to the United States.

We still had *The Wooden Prince*, a gleaming, voluptuous score in which Richard Strauss still peeps unobserved over the shoulder of the younger master who thought to have grown away from that influence. The BBC players certainly did not sound like invalids, coaxed into dynamism and euphonious beguilement as they were by Rozhdstevsky; this was a superbly prepared interpretation.

Bartók's opus 15 songs were eloquently if not subtly sung by Sylvia Sass, nobly supported by Roger Vignoles as her pianist. The BBC strings gave an agreeable account of the *Diversions*, its melodies phrased and nuanced decently, short of the desirable elegance and intensity. At the interval this concert felt like an apology for a major musical event. The performance of *The Wooden Prince* (The Prince carved out of wood) is a more enlightening translation) did much to raise spirits.

Yet one could not but wonder

why, if the full orchestra was healthy enough to play that stable piece, it was too ill to accompany the *Cantata profana*. The choir, chorus and soloists were already prepared and standing by. Then I wondered why injections for the orchestra had been arranged for the critical days just before this important concert, not 10 days earlier so that any physical reactions would be abated by now. Could it be that interdepartmental liaison in the BBC had not matched touring requirements with those of the concert syllabus at home? Did a calculated risk turn out to be ill calculated?

It is too late now for such speculations. Bartók Day has come and gone, and the great tribute of homage proved rather disappointing. I cannot help feeling, as a Bartók enthusiast who not miss the late-night programmes all this week on BBC 2, that the disappointment could have been avoided.

dredges up mostly the hysteria of cruel Regan, and a production filled by performers might have a consistency that Mr Trotter's *King Lear* lacks. Against such resolute presentation of self, there is the additional contrast of the classical authority of Meg Davies as Cordelia. Of performers are used for their beauty and are placed as images in Mr Trotter's pictures.

There is a coherence, or there would be no force in the conclusion. The only inadvertent laughs can be traced to the elaborate falseness of some costumes. Given a few more performances, the varying styles of the actors may well come closer together and the first half may begin to match the visual imagination of the design. There is imagination and that more than anything else bodes well for the future of the Northcott's new regime.

Last night's television

Man Alive
BBC 2

Michael Ratcliffe

That the company of disabled people can make inspiring television has been proved more than once, most recently in *Aretha's* film about the Grassie Theatre Group, *Getting Andy from Sidney*. Man Alive decided to make a programme about the will of the disabled to some kind of independence and normality, concentrating on the experience of Alison French, 17, and Steve Burton, 29, both spastics with serious problems of speech and co-ordination, and Billy Walsh, a Barnardo boy of 19 with spinal atrophy so severe that he has to be turned once an hour through the night lest the damage him self sleeping, but whose speech is mercifully, indeed mischievously, articulate and complete. "What happens if you get drunk?" Michael Dean asked him. "What happens if you get drunk?" came the swift and only possible reply. "You get a sinking headache the next day." So... We are no different from you, they each insisted, only our bodies are less able than yours.

Not all the questions we wanted to ask were made clear by the unseen Dean, but it is hard to see how his handling of the three subjects, or the shaping of the material into an intelligent and moving whole (producer Ann Paul, editor Tim Slessor), could have been better.

British premiere
Martin's opera *The Greek Pastor* based on Kazantzakis's novel *Christ crucified*, will receive its British premiere by Welsh National Opera in Cardiff on April 29.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

better. Very *Independent People* was in many ways a model of how such things should be done: it forced us to question accepted social definitions of eloquence and normality, whilst making it unambiguously clear that "independence" for the disabled can never be other than relative and costly.

What did not emerge clearly was exactly who pays for the college at Cheltenham, now attended by the exuberant and greatly loved Alison; or for the marvelous centre in Camden, run by a former Cistercian with a small silver disc in one ear, where Billy is dictating his memoirs; or for the system of Community Service Volunteers, without whose constant attention the joyous and nicely sarcastic Steve would not have been able to work for the past seven years as company lawyer in charge of the legal library

at ICI. Rather surprisingly, the Cistercian ducked Mr Dean's question about sexual activity should be done: it forced us to question accepted social definitions of eloquence and normality, whilst making it unambiguously clear that "independence" for the disabled can never be other than relative and costly.

Further questions insisted themselves—what happens, for instance, when the disabled and their otherwise unemployed young CSVs start competing for the same jobs? How exceptional are these three? But the programme's thoroughness, rather than any negligence, independence was triumphantly asserted as a state of mind; the screen held throughout by the determination and indomitable spirit of Alison, Billy and Steve, each coping with the additional hazard of television camera and crew, and very compelling they were.

A bloody JAMIE DEAN
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...a powerful, startling, war film which will make you think...
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King Lear
Northcott, Exeter

Ned Chaillet

Sniffing schoolgirls could testify that Richard Mayes tapped some of the tragic force of *Lear* in a performance that is as yet partly more bewildered than powerful. In the earlier scenes events rush headlong past him and he barely suggests the "dragon and his wrath" that should set the tone for Stewart Trotter's production. His sweetest comes later in his gently-stated but full-hearted display of grief at the foolishness which cut him off from Cordelia.

A splendid backdrop of a fiery dragon surrounded by suspended celestial globes, designed by Tim Reed, would suggest that Mr Trotter originally intended to wake the dragon in *Lear* in the first half, but that

period of its composition, or thereabouts, and that gives Deirdre Clancy the opportunity to dress Ariadne and the Nymphs as if they had stepped out of the *Delphos* poster. How wise Mr Trotter's intervention is limited to the provision of a staircase, decorative but totally purposeless in that it goes up only in order to come down again.

Evidently the fear was that the main act of the opera would be too static without some large apparatus on which the cast might gently ripple and pose, though it is odd that the staircase should suddenly become covered with dust-sheets when it had been all gleaming white, wrought-iron work in the prologue. One half expects that the Composer's "Opera Seria" will be dis-

turbed not only by the clown show but also by the visitations of chimney sweeps.

The prologue is less perplexing and benefits too from the ENO's great strength in character singers. However, the fussy year dignified as the Music Master, and his balletic opposite number is made by Stuart Kale to mince, but also to sing clearly and attractively. The Composer, looking rather like Shelley just come in from the wind, is sung by Sally Burgess as a youth ardently in love with himself, responding much more with sorrow than anger to the obstacles, put in his way. It is pity that Miss Burgess's tenderness hardens when the voice is pressed.

After the interval the stage belongs largely to Marilyn Hill Smith as Zerbinaeta and to her

Death of an Anarchist at its most self-indulgent.

I suppose it is an achievement of sorts to make the worst of John Copley seem a miracle of refinement. The tragedy is that these are good singers and could have made up an exquisite production if such a low view had not been taken of the audience's taste.

Cabaret included, Ann Mackay's Eurycleia is beautifully and surely sung, with style in plenty. Introduced on his every entrance by a raucously recorded can-can, Martin McEvoy's

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period of its composition, or thereabouts, and that gives Deirdre Clancy the opportunity to dress Ariadne and the Nymphs as if they had stepped out of the *Delphos* poster. How wise Mr Trotter's intervention is limited to the provision of a staircase, decorative but totally purposeless in that it goes up only in order to come down again.

Evidently the fear was that the main act of the opera would be too static without some large apparatus on which the cast might gently ripple and pose, though it is odd that the staircase should suddenly become covered with dust-sheets when it had been all gleaming white, wrought-iron work in the prologue. One half expects that the Composer's "Opera Seria" will be dis-

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After the interval the stage belongs largely to Marilyn Hill Smith as Zerbinaeta and to her

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Antigua's transformed ground may demand Miller's skills

McEnroe is on the way to a Borg showdown

Mottram the only British certainty

Christopher (Buster) Mottram, Britain's top player, will be the only home player to gain entry into the British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth next month.

Chris Lewis and Onny Parun, who form the backbone of New Zealand's Davis Cup team, Britain's next opponents, will also be playing, as will last year's winner, Angel Gimenez, of Spain.

On the way to DOWN

**Following the
leaders is**

From Dennis Lehane
New York, March 26
Martina Navratilova, the only
player among the eight finalists
in this year's Avon finals to have
appeared before, opened with a

Missie Allen beat the world's fourth ranked player, Hana Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) 7-5, 6-1, suggests that Miss Allen may become the main attraction of this particular tournament.

Gardner puts up a gloveless fight for £30,000

Peter Mathebula, who tomorrow defends his WBA flyweight cham-

Mathebula has said that he

Final round, Bantamweight: W. Esperon (US), beat J. Chasin (Israel), pts; P. Csud (Hungary), beat S. Akpabio (Nigeria), pts; A. Radov (Bulgaria), beat H. Ardin (Turkey), pts. Featherweights: P. Suckrov (WG), beat J. Watkins (US), third round; G. Kaley (Uganda), beat R. Holzmänn (WG), pts.

Gosforth must Wings to reach

Smith Bedford

Forty-five schools battled for a place in the sixth round of the festival competition in the National Schools seven-a-side tournament at Mootspur Park and KCS Old Boys yesterday. After heavy rain on

Of the four groups decided here on Wednesday, Bedford looked impressive as they demolished their opponents in Group B, scoring 138 pts to nil. It is a pity

st spread their ch semi-final

d's key player

that they seem destined to compete with Monmouth, another side to have excelled, for a place in the first semi-final. Bedford field a crucial player in their stand-off half, Smith, the England 18 group international.

Osborne, aged 25, made his first appearance for New Zealand against Scotland in 1975.—Reuter.

settlement of Gillian Gilks's dispute with the Badminton Assoc-

discernible this week. Paula Kington, Mrs Gilks's doubles partner and the less-publicized player involved in the row, has made her peace with the authorities. Inevitably it has led to speculation that talks between Mrs Gilks and

presence on the first tea has made him nervous for the first time. King is the most amiable and carefree of golfers, professional and amateur, and this also may have an unnerving effect

The amateurs gave as good as they got for much of the match but their opponents' escape from an improbable position at the 12th seemed to drain their spirits. King had hurried his approach shot in

Cambridge are not very happy with Oxford's first stroke off the start in Boat Races, which they

after an argument concerning whom she should partner in

The BAE will want Mrs Gilks halt her pending legal action against them. This alleges that non-selection for international events has been rammed out.

FIFTH ROUND: R. Wyer and Read 3 and 2 R. Hunter and Miss Middleton; A. Lydon and G. Br...

Ray and B. Mugs one hole
Foreman and M. Foreman: K. Elvin a
M. L. Lawrence 3 and 2 G. Hunt a
M. Brown; M. King and M. H. Dix
two hole; A. G. Sherborne and M.
Sessell; R. W. Muscroft and D.
Macrae 3 and 4 D. Gannicott a
R. Lawrence; B. Evans and Miss
Lowe at 19th P. Stew and M. Stupp

Oxford's main offering of the day was early in the evening when they took Trinity College Dublin in tow. The sporting

the women's world team competition. England meet Denmark

On present form, England will probably not select either Gilks or Miss Kilvington singles but a good case could be made for including them.

71: M. Miller, R. Craig, E. Dolan
(Ireland), C. Mason, 72: C. Pollock,
P. Road, A. O'Connor (Ireland),
Hill, M. Thomas, M. Stoddman,
Thorp, E. Murthy, J. Fowler, 73:
Cowen, P. Elson, N. Hunt, J. Campbell
(Spain), W. Longuiru, M. Galt,
(Spain), D. Gammon (Zimbabwe),
C. Givens, S. Galt, T. Galt.

SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP 15p
 scored by Acro Linguistic Quality

Today's outings: Cambridge 1 and 3; Oxford 10 and 4 from Burney.

Klepper makes recommends for Charterhouse

International trophy first of the season

Bumpy roads of Rio will present extra hazards

Several of the corners are long, of constant radius and taken at medium speed, which is an almost guaranteed formula for inducing understeer in the modern Grand Prix car. The problem is likely to be compounded this year following the removal of skirts and the addition of large front wings

On some cars, the large wings tend to impede airflow to the side-mounted radiator, so there may be some overheating problems with engines as well as drivers over the next three days. As larger wings usually mean more power-consuming drag on this relatively fast circuit (the race lap record set three years

and the 12-cylinder Talbot Ligiers and Alfa Romeos should be able to make significantly better use of their distinct power advantage than at Long Beach.

Of all the Cosworth Ford-powered runners, the Lotus S8 with its twin chassis remains the most interesting and controversial entry. Although the Lotus team

197 miles. Reutemann fastest.—Reutemann, driving a Williams, had the best time in unofficial practice for Sunday's race. The Argentine had a best lap time of 1 min. 37.485sec. AP report. The Frenchman Alain Prost, of the Renault team, recorded the second best time of 1:38.421.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm)	U	Piste	Conditions piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)
Andermatt	60	330		Heavy	Closed	Fair
Fresh snow above 2,900m						
Amere	40	170	Bad	Heavy	Poor	Thaw
Rain most of today						
Avoriaz	135	225	Fair	Wet	Fair	Cloud
Conditions improving						
Crans-Montana	35	100	Poor	Varied	Good	Fine
Rare patches on all slopes						
Flaine	96	545		Fair	Fair	Fine
Slush on lower slopes						
Isola	2000	235	Good	Heavy	Worn	Cloud
Slushy snow on lower slopes						
Kitzbühel	20	145	Poor	Heavy	Closed	Rain
Slush on all slopes						
Les Arcs	100	210	Fair	Heavy	Fair	Cloud
Worn patches on lower slopes						
La Plagne	100	265	Poor	Heavy	Poor	Thaw
Still settling all round						
St. Anzès	30	350	Varied	Heavy	Poor	Rain
Complete washout						

In the above reports supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

[illegible]

A cool lady facing UN realities

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick is the steel tip on President Reagan's new hard-nosed foreign policy. Once one of its foremost philosophers, she now has to articulate and defend that policy as the new United States Ambassador to the United Nations, in the most difficult forum in the world.

The former Professor of Government at Georgetown University had her first bruising encounter with the realities of the United Nations last week. It took four days to reconcile the attitude of the United States with that of the other members of the Security Council on whether to criticize Israel in the resolution deploring the death of two Nigerian members of the UN force in Lebanon.

It was just after that formative experience that I spoke to her in her office across First Avenue from the United Nations building. It had clearly been



Mrs Kirkpatrick: crisp.

a strain, but her cool head and her sharp perception of her role remained intact.

She is a slender, slightly stooped woman of middle age, a well ordered mind reflected in her black, crisp, conservative dress.

The Security Council showdown had, she felt, been educational. "I learnt a lot about how the parties at the United Nations go about trying to develop consensus," she said, "and a lot about the principal obstacles to consensus, the informal alliances and the shifting positions."

Consensus is not a word easily associated with Mrs Kirkpatrick, who brought herself to the attention of Mr Reagan's talent spotters in late 1979 with an article in the conservative magazine *Commentary* amounting to an orchestrated assault on President Carter's human rights policy. In a follow-up article in the same magazine this year, she related that criticism specifically to Latin America.

"The human rights policy was ill-conceived and worked badly," she said bluntly in the interview, referring in particular to its effect on changing the governments of Iran and Nicaragua.

"I take a dim view generally of the United States or any other nation trying to destabilize existing governments and build new ones. It almost never works."

"When dealing with foreign societies the likelihood of successfully producing the kinds of governments and policies you desire is extremely low. . . . It's a good example of the arrogance of power to try."

Yet at the United Nations the human rights policy, together with the Carter Administration's support of liberation

In the article by Ivor Crewe on Monday it was stated "Labour parties do not survive for long . . . without a distinctive social base". This should have read "Major parties . . .

movements in Africa, had made the United States more popular with the Third World nations in a majority at the UN than it had ever been before. When I made that point, Mrs Kirkpatrick reacted sharply.

"I believe," she said, "that the principle purpose of American foreign policy should be the civilized defence of our interests . . . the Carter Administration gave it up in favour of identification with the interests of other nations."

"Other countries who profited from the Carter conception will regret the change, but I hope the Reagan Administration will have a foreign policy characterized by greater realism . . . I hope we can have good relations with a wide variety of nations."

"The cabinet meetings make it hard to spend much time in New York, where her job is. During last week's difficult Security Council discussions she had to leave much of the running to deputies, while she had the final say only from a distance. That kind of logistical difficulty becomes more used to being in power and fewer Cabinet meetings are held. The larger contradiction of her job, the attempt to win understanding of the new, aggressive foreign policy from nations inherently hostile to it, will not grow simpler. "I have always thought the world is very complicated, but the job is harder than anything I had ever conceived of."

The professor's lectures are certain to be well attended. While she cannot expect the bulk of her new students to share her vision of the world, they will be left in no doubt as to its nature.

Michael Leapman

The birth of the Social Democrats presents a challenge to both of the most established parties, but especially to the Labour Party. The Social Democrats would never have set up their own party at all if they had not concluded that Labour was in thrall to the left. The challenge is paradoxically all the greater for those on the Labour right and centre who have decided not to break away, even though in many instances their views cannot easily be distinguished from those of the Social Democrats.

They are staying often for reasons of loyalty and sentiment, but also on tactical grounds. They are saying in effect that they believe the Labour Party can still be a serviceable vehicle for people of their persuasion.

For that judgment to be proved correct they will have to win two battles, within the party and in the country at large. Their greatest advantage is that while these are separate battles, they are related. It would not satisfy the right and centre to recapture control of the party if Labour was ousted from its position as one of the principal parties and left with no hope of winning an election. But its chances of electoral success will be considerably higher if the left is



Above: An artist's impression of the Columbia space shuttle as it lands; right, on the launch pad; far right, the shuttle astronauts Robert Crippen and John Young

The shuttle that could put America ahead in space

The American engineers who built the new, reusable space shuttle will know in 10 days' time if their revolutionary vehicle will restore the American lead over the Soviet Union in space technology. Almost \$10,000m has been spent on the first spacecraft which can make repeated journeys into orbit, carrying enormous cargoes of satellites and other equipment for scientific, commercial and military customers and non-astronaut crew.

A decision was made early in 1972 to develop a vehicle, about the size of a DC9 jetliner, which could be launched into orbit like a spacebus and return to land like an aircraft on a runway. After maintenance the craft would be ready for relaunching within two to four weeks and could possibly make up to 100 journeys into space in its lifetime. If it succeeds it will substantially reduce the cost of space operations, depending as

they now do on expendable rocket launchers.

The first launch of the Manoeuvring Reusable Space Transportation System, to give the shuttle its full name, is more than two years late and the budget far exceeds the original estimate of \$5,500m.

The aircraft-like part of the shuttle—the Orbiter, carrying the crew and up to 65,000lb of cargo—is the heart of the complex system. Five immense engines are needed to get it aloft; three form part of the spacecraft itself and the other two, called solid rocket boosters, are strapped underneath. Together they generate a launch thrust of 6,423,000lb; that is 30 times the power needed to set a fully laden Jumbo jet off the ground.

Massive technical achievements have gone into building the shuttle: a new type of rocket engine working at unprecedented temperatures and pressures; a novel material

for thermal insulation which covers the Orbiter in a mosaic of 35,000 individually cut tiles; and a huge special fuel tank made with an intriguing layer of material in the form of a honeycomb which provides stability and strength for little weight.

The craft is 121ft long, has a 79ft wingspan and weighs about 150,000lb without fuel. In addition to a pilot and co-pilot, up to five scientists and technicians can be carried to satellites equipment or repair satellites plucked from their orbits by the mechanical arm carried on board.

After its first four test flights the shuttle will land on a dry lakebed in the Californian desert; the prototype has already made successful trial landings there, having been released in mid-air from its piggy-back berth on top of a Jumbo. When it goes into service it will be launched from Cape Canaveral on civil mis-

sions, while military flights will be launched from the air force base at Cape Vandenberg in northern California.

Since full, unmanned tests have not been possible, the enterprise ranks in terms of valour with that of the first man in space. The launch will be manually controlled but the return will be a largely automated process with the pilots monitoring their cockpit instruments.

As the shuttle has no means of propulsion once it is back in the earth's atmosphere, an advanced navigation and guidance equipment is fitted to bring it safely down on its own available approach. The first mission to test the basic design, will last two days; subsequent flights will be longer.

Special techniques are needed to ensure that different types of apparatus can be assembled properly in space. One ambitious plan is to carry a small rocket motor in the cargo bay

and use it to propel spacecraft into deeper parts of the universe.

The shuttle will also carry a telescope 8ft in diameter which should make detectable the merest suspicion of a light source not seen from the ground. Another scheme is the Spacelab, the manned orbital laboratory now being developed in Europe. It will be carried on a number of shuttle journeys and enable scientists and engineers on board to carry out experiments which it would be impractical or even impossible to undertake on earth. These could include creating new metal alloys, making pure chemical agents and manufacturing new drugs and electronic crystals.

If the National Aeronautics and Space Administration succeeds with the shuttle, the Americans will have overcome one of the major barriers in manned space flight. For the reusable vehicle is not simply

an evolutionary step in the development of rockets; it has been called a space truck because it is intended to carry engineers and scientists who will need little training to work in space and for the first time to bring cargoes back to earth.

Once the shuttle is ready for regular service, NASA expects to sell space on board to industrialists and commercial organizations for the type of experiment mentioned earlier.

The shuttle will orbit at about 150 miles from earth. It can carry four communications satellites, each equipped with its own small rocket, to put it into orbit 20,000 miles over the equator. One launch planned for 1984 would carry four such satellites paid for, respectively, by Indonesia, Canada, a consortium of Arab countries and the US Navy.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Geoffrey Smith

What makes a Labour moderate stay on?

seen to be no longer at the steering wheel.

It would be a brave person, however, who was prepared after the past 18 months to put his money on the automatic triumph of logic in the Labour Party. If the right and centre are to win they will have to fight more effectively than they have for many a year. There are some signs that they mean to do so. The establishment of the new Labour Solidarity Campaign is a reaction against the hard left and an expression of disgust at recent shenanigans.

Already the campaign has been joined by more than a hundred MPs, including four members of the Tribune Group. It has also won a large number of supporters outside Parliament from all parts of the country, at all levels in the party, and from right to left. This broad range of support across the spectrum is a measure both of its potential strength and its weakness.

A group such as this, with backing from some of the reasonable left as well as from the

right and centre, is well placed to isolate the Militant Tendency and other representatives of the hard left. It is not so open as other bodies are to the charge of dividing the party. Already it is holding meetings at regional Labour Party conferences, and the number of meetings up and down the country is expected to multiply with requests coming in from many quarters.

There will possibly be some major rallies in September, during the run-up to the party conference, which may well be occasions for the mainstream of the party to come together.

But Solidarity is able to give the impression of being such a broad operation only by limiting its objectives. It is concerned essentially with the way in which Labour conducts its affairs, not with the policies for which it stands. It is not for or against Nato, or for or against the EEC. It is concerned rather that these and other questions should be debated within the party in a reasonable fashion, with Labour representing the

feelings of the majority of people in this country. It wants members of the party to behave towards each other in a more decent and comradely fashion than has been the custom over the past two years.

At the same time Solidarity is striving for democracy at all levels in the party. It therefore wants to reverse the Wembley conference decision which gave the largest stake in the new electoral college to the trade unions. It wants to maintain the existing arrangement whereby responsibility for the manifesto is shared by the Shadow Cabinet, and the NEC. It wants to prevent Labour councillors being dragged down by their local parties.

Now all of these are perfectly sensible purposes. If they had been achieved a little while ago they might have been sufficient to prevent the party sliding into its present confusion. But they will not be enough at this stage both to wrest power back from the left and to demonstrate to the electorate that this has been done.

It is true that a great deal of drama is likely to be attached to the attempt in October to amend the Wembley conference so that MPs should have 50 per cent of the votes in the electoral college, with 25 per cent each going to the trade unions and the constituency parties. But this would be no more than a return to the rather less unsatisfactory outcome that would have been secured at Wembley if the right had not bungled their tactics. It would be presented as the turning of the tide against the left, but if it were believed it would be a massive public relations triumph—and no more.

If that tide is really to be turned it will require a rather more bitter battle than Solidarity seems to contemplate with its pleas for reasonableness all round. The general public will be persuaded that things are different in the Labour camp only if they see the right and centre fighting and winning on a major point of substance.

In the organizational field there are two possibilities. One is to change the balance of power on the NEC. The ideal way would be to reform its structure, but it would be sufficient if a right-wing majority was elected on the existing system. Attempts are once again being made to secure this, but one has heard such hopes for so long that a large bump of scepticism is not unreasonable on this point.

The other possibility would be to proscribe those who join extremist groups from membership of the party. This would arouse very strong feelings within the party, but it would at least show that Labour was once again prepared to take action against the threat of "entryism".

But above all the right needs to show that the left no longer have a grip on policy. There are two obvious areas where this battle might be fought. One is on Europe. The difficulty here is that this is the one issue on which the right is not

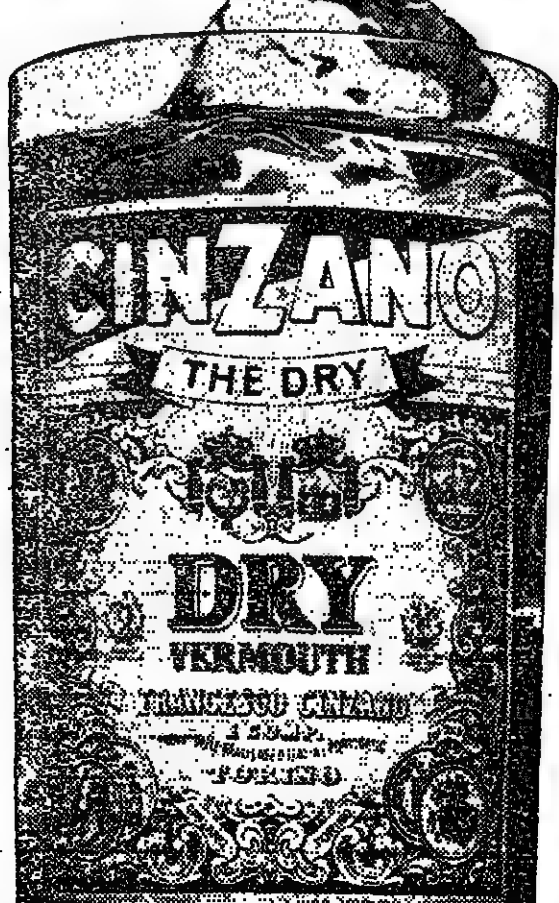
only divided itself but is out of step with opinion in the country. It could at the very least take its stand, though, on the principle that Britain should not be taken out of the Community without another referendum.

Then there is defence, the issue on which Gaiskill was prepared to fight and fight again. In one sense it is more difficult for his successors, in that anxiety about nuclear weapons probably spreads more widely across the political spectrum these days. But the issue itself is just as important. As a minimum, the Blackpool absurdity must be sorted out so that Labour is no longer espousing a defence policy that is incompatible with Nato, even though it wishes to remain in the organization.

But to be convincing, the party needs to go beyond that to accept some of the uncomfortable policies that would demonstrate that Britain would remain a leading member of the alliance under a future Labour government.

If it would go as far on Cruise missiles as Chancellor Schmidt has done in Germany, Labour would win a measure of respect as a party that once again had the courage to take unpopular decisions.

Keep the party dry.



Cinzano makes other vermouths seem a little wet.

Being young and lucky in Russia

The thaw has come early this year. Gentle winds from the south have pushed temperatures in Moscow up to their March warmest for more than 100 years, and the winter's snow, by now black and compacted, has been melting fast. It makes a terrible mess. As the detritus of six months is revealed, potholes appear in the roads and cars and people are back to back splashing through pools of muddy water.

No wonder Lenin organized a grand clearing-up day, which has become a virtual legal obligation. On one Saturday every April Soviet citizens are obliged to arm themselves with spades and brooms to get rid of the dross of winter, and plant flowers for the summer.

Perhaps the only people who enjoy the thaw are the children. Still muffled in thick leggings and woolly hats, they can be seen in the courtyards and back alleys damming the streams of melting snow and chipping canals in the ice for muddy water. Watchful grandmothers in headscarves and padded coats admonish them in stern tones, pointing out in a hundred different ways that this or that is forbidden.

It seems to have little effect. I sometimes believe there are only two categories of people in the Soviet Union who matter: the elderly matriarchs, the generation widowed by the war, who really run the country and whose toughness is more than just proverbial—especially if you try taking one of them in a queue or getting off a bus—and the children. "The only privileged class," as Soviet officials are fond of saying.

Life for a child in Russia is not bad. Indeed one of the main worries of sociologists and

family counsellors is that it is too good: Russian children are terribly spoiled. Partly this is because of natural Slavic sentimentality and fondness for children, partly because most Russian families nowadays have only one child. For the generation brought up in the harsh post-war days of rationing and deprivation, nothing is now too much for their children. "I'm determined to give them what we never had," is a common sentiment.

Spoiling them materially is perhaps a bit harder than in the West, mainly because the quality of Soviet toys is so appalling. They can be guaranteed to break within the first few hours of use, and finding something new and worthwhile in the big Moscow toyshops can be a real challenge.

But parents lavish great attention on their children when they see them, which tends to be for only a few hours a day as most mothers have full-time jobs: grandmothers often play an essential role in bringing them up. During the day most city children are sent to nursery schools. The system is well developed and caters for those between the ages of three and seven, which is the compulsory starting age for ordinary school. Kindergartens, often attached to factories and collective farms, are generally well equipped and children can stay until 5 pm, with a midday nap. But in spite of all the advantages for children, early socializing, many parents would prefer to look after their children at home, not least because of the high incidence of colds and diseases at nursery schools.

Most Russian blocks of flats are built around courtyards and little gardens which seem to be the exclusive preserve of the young, the old and dogs. There are usually some rudimentary swings and seesaws, roundabouts and climbing frames. The children, brightly painted and often broken, and

"Saw me tutor. In a dolls queue, actually..."



at this time of year awash in mud, but that does not deter the children. There are the inevitable benches nearby, and the spring sun brings out the pensioners who remain like fixtures till the autumn, gossiping till twilight and frowning suspiciously at any newcomers.

Old men are more sporting: their favourite game is dominoes, and in most courtyards you find a small gathering of ancient enthusiasts discussing this or that decisive move.

Older children prefer something more adventurous. In winter they turn up in crowds at enclosed patches of ground, flooded and frozen to form ice hockey rinks where the thrills and skills of the local professionals are re-enacted by their 10-year-old admirers. On Lenin Hills, just in front of Moscow's gothic skyscraper university, boys on sledges burgle down the frozen paths, shouting warnings to bridal couples posing for photographs and scattering the grandmothers and their small charges.

And up at the vast Permanent Exhibition of Economic Achievements, a bizarre collection of pavilions dedicated to the coal industry, transport, Soviet history, embroidery and craftwork and other manifestations of the Soviet way of life, youngsters can, for a price, take an eight-minute ride in a troika, pulled by three snorting horses streaming in the cold.

But these winter diversions are now over. It is not much fun going to Sokolniki Park, near the centre of Moscow, as I did last weekend, and wading through slush. Expeditions to the countryside are not worthwhile yet—and for the next month or so the best amusements are indoors.

Fortunately Moscow is well supplied. In keeping with the high seriousness of Soviet cultural policy, children's theatre has long been encouraged. Several permanent companies exist in the capital, including a children's musical theatre, putting in suitably edifying performances. The actors are closely involved in teaching and lecturing about drama, and children are often asked to help stage the shows.

The pattern is repeated throughout the country, and some 50 children's theatres have been founded. According to a decree issued more than 60 years ago every theatre is obliged to mix on a performance for children once a week, and more during the school holidays. Even the famed Bolshoi does its bit with ballets for children on Saturday and Sunday mornings, preceded by lectures about the company and the art of ballet.

One of the favourites with children is the Moscow Puppet Theatre, founded in 1931 by the formidable Sergei Obraztsov, who is still the director. Though ostensibly for children, it now enjoys a world reputation, attracts many adults and tourists and has made many tours overseas. The puppets, standing about two feet high and controlled by rods from

below, are uncannily lifelike. The repertoire includes the usual pantomime stories such as *Puss in Boots* but has been broadened to take in a special Olympic show, romantic 17th-century, vaudeville and such sophisticated parodies as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a type of a poor variety show that contains not a little political satire. So successful is the Moscow Puppet Theatre that others have sprung up all over the country: some 200 companies performing in 30 different languages.

But Soviet children, like those anywhere, can hardly be counted as regular theatre-goers. Much more of their free time is taken up with activities organized by the Pioneers, a rough equivalent of the Boy Scouts, though with a distinctly communist overtone, which almost every child is obliged to join from the age of 10. Pioneer palaces—the largest being aptly named—organize an impressive range of activities and hobbies from stamp collecting to chess, sport to music.

In all, as Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, boasted during the International Year of the Child, some 50,000 establishments in the Soviet Union offer activities for the young. They include 4,700 Pioneer palaces, 1,197 young technicians' centres, 730 young nationalists' centres and 39 children's railways.

Even all this does not guarantee that everyone will be suitably and constructively occupied. A survey found that 90 per cent of Soviet children named television as their chief pastime, adolescents watching between 90 minutes and four hours every day. Those not glued to the screen are just as likely to be out in the yard, kicking a football around or, as now, getting thoroughly and enjoyably wet in the mud and melting slush. It's not a bad life.

Michael Binyon



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THE GANG BECOMES A PARTY

The birth of a new national political party is so rare an occasion in this country that it tells a good deal about the current state of British politics. It is an event of hope born out of despair. It is an event of hope because there is the promise that the party political scene will more fully reflect public opinion if the Social Democrats are playing a prominent part. This would certainly be preferable to continuing the familiar conflict between the Conservatives and an unreconstructed Labour Party.

The emergence of the Social Democrats is also a hopeful sign because a group of professional politicians have been prepared to put their careers to the hazard. Had they remained in the Labour Party a number of them could reasonably have expected to serve in Cabinet, either again or for the first time. In starting a new party they are taking an enormous risk, even if the prospects now look more favourable than when they took the decision. So in following this course they are demonstrating one of the principle qualities required for effective political action: a nerve. But they would not be taking this chance if they had not despaired of the Labour Party. Throughout its history Labour has been dominated by the unions. This has become more objectionable as union power has grown to the point where it is widely resented by union members as well as by the general public. Even so, union dominance was generally considered to be a price worth paying to prevent the party being controlled by the left. Since the last election, though, Labour has had the worst of both worlds: an objectionable degree of union power which has nonetheless failed to hold the left in check.

This has provided a sufficient justification for the decision of the Social Democrats to break away. There are honourable reasons for Labour right-wingers staying in that party. But after everything that has happened in the past eighteen months there can be no question of the Social Democrats indulging in a futile and idle gesture. They are engaged in a daring enterprise, which may or may not succeed, but which must be taken seriously. Its prospects will depend significantly on the fortunes of politics beyond their control. Above all, what will happen to the Labour Party between now and the election? But there are other determining

factors which they can affect. The first is how they will present themselves to the country in policy terms. Most of the policies which they put forward in their twelve-point programme yesterday are ones which we as a newspaper have long supported. They are in favour of NATO and the EEC. They want to continue with the mixed economy and to introduce proportional representation. Yet sensible as these policies are, there is a paradox in a party offering a new beginning which on closer inspection turns out to be a modern version of Butskellism. Indeed, with the exception of proportional representation, there is no major policy being proposed by the Social Democrats now which was not at least attempted by the Callaghan Government. The freshness, therefore, lies not as yet in the policies which are being put forward, but rather in the position from which they are advanced. The Social Democrats are not tied to the unions, they do not carry the handicap of an unrealistic and irresponsible left wing, and they are not associated with any one class. At a time when both Labour and the Conservatives have broken away in different directions from the postwar consensus, there is a place on the political spectrum for a party that is seeking essentially to bring that consensus up to date. But it will need adroit presentation to preserve the impression of freshness at the same time.

It follows that they will remain under pressure to produce bolder and more detailed policies than they have yet revealed. Here they will need to strike a delicate balance. A party whose principal attraction is that it is free from the constricting dogmas of others must be careful not to saddle itself with a new ideology for the sake of something to say. At the same time, it will have to say enough to appear credible. The doubt about the Social Democrats that is most frequently expressed by voters is put in the form of the question: "what do they stand for?" The party does not need to publish a detailed blueprint, but must say sufficient to answer that question satisfactorily. Another delicate issue for the new party is its leadership. For the moment the Social Democrats are making a virtue of their collective leadership. There is a case for following the example of the German Social Democrats and having one leader in Parliament and another in the country. But the principal argument for

the collective leadership of the British Social Democrats at this time is the difficulty of determining which of them would make the best individual leader.

Mr Jenkins is the most experienced. Mrs Williams is the most popular. Mr Rodgers is the most adroit. Dr Owen has the sharpest cutting edge. As he is in the House of Commons, which the other two are not, and as he is already the leader of the party in Parliament, the case for making him the overall leader might seem strong. It is certainly true that without Dr Owen's pugnacious qualities the Social Democrats would not be where they are today. This toughness is essential in the leader of a new party breaking away from old alignments. It is impossible to conduct such an operation without giving offence. Yet Dr Owen's capacity for giving offence goes beyond what is necessary. Despite his rapprochement with Mr Steel on television this week, he is the one among the prominent Social Democrats with whom the Liberals have the worst relations. At this stage it would be wise to leave the overall leadership of the party an open question, especially as the relationship with the Liberals will be critical.

An effective partnership between the two of them is necessary to both for two different reasons. An electoral pact is needed to ensure that they are not competing for the same votes in constituency after constituency. But a deeper alliance is required if the electorate is to be convinced that this new grouping is more credible than any other claimants to the centre-left territory of British politics for the last half century or more. It is because the Liberals by themselves have never looked credible enough that they have never quite made the breakthrough. Mr Steel was right, for this reason, to press again yesterday for more than a mere electoral pact. The closer the arrangement between the two parties will look, if they can agree on policy priorities, and campaign jointly, with the promise of forming a coalition if they win enough seats, they will then be presenting the established parties with a formidable challenge that might indeed change the face of British politics. Their dilemma is that the more successful they are in forcing moderation on the other parties the more likely they are to fail.

WHAT ELSE CONVINCED LORD TREND?

Mrs Thatcher's statement in the Commons yesterday set out an answer to two main questions arising out of allegations made by Mr Chapman Pincher in his book on the security services. The first was to comment on what she saw as the main allegation that "the late Sir Roger Hollis, Director General of the security service from 1956-65, as an agent of the Russian intelligence service". The second, more general, purpose of her statement was to reassure Parliament and public that whatever the merits of the allegations about Hollis and many other intelligence officers which were made in Mr Pincher's book the procedures in the security services are functioning properly and do not need to be revised. Mrs Thatcher confirmed that there had been a wide ranging investigation into the security services following the defection of Burgess and Maclean. It covered many people all of whom since either died or retired in public service. The investigation reached not only those suspected of being guilty of treason but those who could conceivably fit the often inconclusive descriptions of Philby and others, on whom it was impossible to secure sufficient evidence for charges to be brought, were nevertheless suspected enough to be moved to non-sensitive work.

Sir Roger Hollis was investigated because certain leads suggested that there had been a let agent at a relatively senior level in the last years of war. Though none of those is specifically identified Sir Roger or pointed solely in his direction "he was among those who fitted some of them". He therefore investigated after

his retirement. Mrs Thatcher confessed that the investigation did not conclusively prove his innocence since it would have been hard to do so, but added that no evidence incriminated him and the conclusion reached was that he had not been a Soviet agent.

However, this view was challenged by at least two of Sir Roger's colleagues who had participated in the enquiry. They pressed for it to be reopened. When Lord Trend was called in to review all the material, and interviewed Sir Roger's accusers, he concluded that the first enquiry had been carried out satisfactorily and that the leads which purported to identify Sir Roger could be explained by reference to Philby or Blunt. Mrs Thatcher, after discussing the matter with Lord Trend, stated that he agreed with those who, though it was impossible to prove the negative, had nonetheless concluded that Sir Roger had not been a Soviet agent. The Prime Minister did not reveal why Lord Trend's conclusions appeared to bring the matter to an end when the earlier enquiry had not done so, at least in the minds of two people who had taken part in it. Was this because Lord Trend had access to more information than had been available to the original investigators or was it simply because he agreed with the majority verdict? And did his conclusions satisfy the two doubters?

Mrs Thatcher could have amplified this assertion without revealing anything sensitive and her inability to do so is unfortunate. She has now officially revealed that there were serious professional suspicions about Sir Roger which do not seem to have been dispelled but

merely disposed of, as it were, by majority verdict. The official view, and Sir Roger's supporters within the security service, may claim that his innocence has been upheld. Others—including presumably his doubters within the service—can only reach a less generous conclusion of "not proven".

On the other matter it was right for Mrs Thatcher to institute a review into security procedures and practices. The recommendations of Lord Radcliffe have now been in force for nearly 20 years. No system, particularly one as sensitive as the security service, should be lulled into any sense of self-satisfaction with its work. Lord Radcliffe's report brought in some necessary reforms after a period of scandal caused by the undisciplined—indeed almost suicidal—recruitment of subversives during the late 30s and the period of the war. Many of our security defects dated from decisions taken at that time, and from the fact that those decisions led to the recruitment and promotion of many traitors. As the Prime Minister said yesterday, there is a different environment now from those scandals of long ago, and the security commission will have to consider how to strike a new balance between the needs of national security, the need for efficiency and economy, and the individual rights of members of the public service.

It must be hoped that Lord Diplock's report will be as penetrating and revealing as was Lord Radcliffe's, and will contain as clear and lasting recommendations. The inadequacy of his enquiry into the matter of telephone tapping is not a reassuring precedent.

ur-Rahman (March 19) was encouragingly optimistic and painted a favourable picture of President Zia as a young, dynamic "man in a hurry" who may add one or two darker touches to the chiaroscuro of this flattering portrait?

The Government of General Zia is at present waging war on the tribal peoples in the Chittagong hill tracts, driving out or killing the original inhabitants, mostly Buddhists or Christians, and replacing them with Muslim Bengalis. The idea is to develop the forest areas by turning them over to agriculture and the growing of cash crops and at the same time to relieve the pressure of population in the settled areas.

No one can object to properly thought out plans for development, but genocide is a different matter. The Chittagong hill tracts had enjoyed special protected status since the Chittagong hill tracts regulation no. 1, of 1900, which remained effective after independence in 1946 until it was abrogated

in 1964. In fact some of the provisions of the original regulation, mainly those relating to tax collection and local government, are still operative.

This society now possesses ample evidence of the violent methods employed by the Bangladesh forces to impose the Government's will on the tribal peoples whose habitat, way of life and indeed that life itself are threatened with destruction.

Lamentably this is not a unique example: similar situations obtain in the Philippines, Brazil, Paraguay and other parts of the world where indigenous peoples are being destroyed in the name of progress. Strong men in a hurry tend to take decisions and inspire action which can produce irreversibly destructive results. Yours faithfully, PETER DAVIES, The Anti-Slavery Society, 180 Brixton Road, SW9, March 19.

The discretion to prosecute

From Sir David Nepley

In the statement which I recently issued to the press (The Times, March 20) I observed that recent events "go to the very root of the discretion to prosecute". That, however, cannot, I believe, be said for the article by Ronald Butt on the subject (March 26).

Either every crime disclosed, with sufficient evidence amounting to a *prima facie* case, must be the subject of prosecution or the prosecuting authority must be given a discretion whether or not to proceed. For as long as can be remembered a discretion has been vested in the Law Officers, the Director of Public Prosecutions, since the office was created, and chief constables to decide whether any citizen should or should not be prosecuted. The test applicable is also clear: first, whether there is sufficient evidence to raise a probability that conviction will result, and secondly, whether the public interest requires that a prosecution be launched. One factor in determining the public interest (and I have never suggested it was the only factor) is "whether the indirect punishment and hardship which a conviction would entail may suffer if it is so disproportionate to the severity of the offence and to any penalty likely to be imposed by a court that it would be unjust to prosecute". That test is, in fact, the one which has been applied, within my personal experience, the practice for over 45 years.

In his book, *The Discretion to Prosecute*, A. J. Wilcock, formerly Chief Constable of Herefordshire, lists the reasons for not prosecuting, one of which is: "Where a prosecution would bring disproportionate consequences to the accused who has a good character and reputation".

Parliament has the right, and must always continue to have the right, to question any such decision by calling upon the Attorney General to justify it. What cannot be right, and what I have repeatedly described as irresponsible, and which should never be permitted, is so to frame public questions to the Law Officers as are calculated and intended to frustrate and nullify the effect of any such decision, in advance of any explanation.

The subject has been repeatedly debated in Parliament over many years and on many occasions. Speaking in the House of Commons on February 16, 1959, the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Macmillan, stated: "H.C. Debates, vol. 630, col. 31." "We are not in the presence of good government in this country, and a tradition long supported by all political parties, that the decision as to whether any citizen should be prosecuted, or whether any prosecution should be discontinued, should be a matter where a public authority is given a discretion, subject to the parliamentary safeguards which I have described."

If Mr Butt's arguments were carried to their logical conclusion there would be no factors which might properly be taken into account and the discretion would have disappeared. It would be a sorry day for justice in this country were that to happen.

Yours truly, DAVID NAPPLEY, 107-115 Long Acre, WC2, March 26.

It is not, and cannot be, simply a

question of not proceeding some one "because he is well known" as Ronald Butt suggests. That wholly misrepresents the position. Indeed, in many cases when the balance comes to be weighed, the prosecuting authority decides that while the ordinary way in which to decide against prosecution, it must nevertheless proceed because of the fact that the person concerned is well known, and cases are frequently called in by the Director to ensure that the proper balance is struck in that very direction. Often as a result "the well known" suffer greater hardship. It always remains a question of balance.

But, asserts Ronald Butt, in the case under discussion it was not merely obscene but related to the "abuse of children". What then if his assertions were true? The offence of sending obscene material through the post, especially in sealed envelopes, is not regarded by the courts with any degree of seriousness. Whether the decision was right or wrong, two who were prosecuted because of the particular nature of the material were given only conditional discharges by the court. The philosophy of the Post Office legislation is to prevent citizens being affronted through the medium of the post, with obscenity which they have no desire to see.

The Act does not and was not intended to draw distinctions between different types of obscenity. It is the existing law which has to be considered, not what others consider it ought to be. It may be said with justification that the sending of such literature through the post, or even merely possessing it, if it is in the hands of children should be made a more serious offence. If so, it is for Parliament to legislate; the present statute does not begin to aim at that objective. It is certainly not, as Mr Butt is the first to agree, for a prosecuting authority to usurp the function of Parliament. If it did the mischief might become worse than the disease.

How then, asks Mr Butt, does the DPP justify non-prosecution on the grounds that no financial gain was involved and that the material was not unsolicited? In enforcing the law, regard must be had not only to the letter but also to the spirit. The Post Office Act, as I have already said, is directed against the use of the post for affording recipients with obscenity they have no desire to see, but certainly, in my view, it does not even within the spirit draw distinction between obscenity which relates to children and that which does not.

The discretion to prosecute which exists in every civilized country, and without which the machinery of justice would grind to a halt, involves difficult, anxious and responsible decisions. In the final analysis trust must be placed in those charged with the responsibility, subject to the parliamentary safeguards which I have described.

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But, asserts Ronald Butt, in the case under discussion it was not merely obscene but related to the "abuse of children". What then if his assertions were true? The offence of sending obscene material through the post, especially in sealed envelopes, is not regarded by the courts with any degree of seriousness. Whether the decision was right or wrong, two who were prosecuted because of the particular nature of the material were given only conditional discharges by the court. The philosophy of the Post Office legislation is to prevent citizens being affronted through the medium of the post, with obscenity which they have no desire to see.

The Act does not and was not intended to draw distinctions between different types of obscenity. It is the existing law which has to be considered, not what others consider it ought to be. It may be said with justification that the sending of such literature through the post, or even merely possessing it, if it is in the hands of children should be made a more serious offence. If so, it is for Parliament to legislate; the present statute does not begin to aim at that objective. It is certainly not, as Mr Butt is the first to agree, for a prosecuting authority to usurp the function of Parliament. If it did the mischief might become worse than the disease.

How then, asks Mr Butt, does the DPP justify non-prosecution on the grounds that no financial gain was involved and that the material was not unsolicited? In enforcing the law, regard must be had not only to the letter but also to the spirit. The Post Office Act, as I have already said, is directed against the use of the post for affording recipients with obscenity they have no desire to see, but certainly, in my view, it does not even within the spirit draw distinction between obscenity which relates to children and that which does not.

The discretion to prosecute which exists in every civilized country, and without which the machinery of justice would grind to a halt, involves difficult, anxious and responsible decisions. In the final analysis trust must be placed in those charged with the responsibility, subject to the parliamentary safeguards which I have described.

If Mr Butt's arguments were carried to their logical conclusion there would be no factors which might properly be taken into account and the discretion would have disappeared. It would be a sorry day for justice in this country were that to happen.

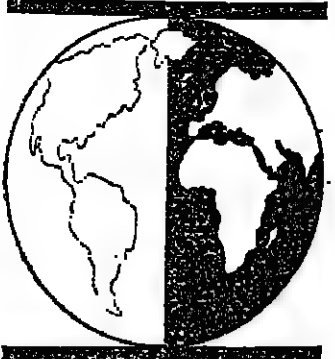
Yours truly, DAVID NAPPLEY, 107-115 Long Acre, WC2, March 26.

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Eastern block 'more dynamic'

Economic activity in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was "more dynamic" in 1980 than the previous year, but growth still largely failed to meet national targets, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe said in Geneva.

Only in the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and East Germany were developments "largely in line with policy orientations".

The United Nations agency, basing its report on figures supplied by the eastern block countries, said the region's total output of goods rose about 3 per cent. Growth was 1.1 per cent in the Soviet Union was excluded.

Industrial output "accelerated slightly" in the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland both reported declines in economic growth. There was a "strong recovery" in agricultural output in Czechoslovakia.

Total trade of the Eastern block rose about 12 per cent in value terms. In trade with Western nations, the Socialist states had a small surplus in the first nine months of last year.

Hunt suit filed
The Hunt Energy Company has filed a federal court suit in Dallas aimed at limiting an investigation into silver futures trading by the multi-millionaire's family, including Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt and Mr. W. Herbert Hunt. The suit accused the Securities and Exchange Commission of exceeding the limits of its jurisdiction in an investigation which began last year after the silver price collapsed.

Turkey-OECD talks
The OECD and Turkey held talks in Paris on Turkey's stabilization plan and its medium-term economic prospects, but did not discuss new loan pledges. Officials said the OECD would now hold bilateral talks with its member states to obtain agreement on individual loan pledges for Turkey for 1981.

India seeks credit
India is negotiating new credits on the European lending market this year to buy aircraft and ships and to build a large steel plant. Official sources in New Delhi declined to say how much India would seek but forewarned no problems because of its good credit rating, substantial gold holdings and reserves with the International Monetary Fund.

Nuclear go-ahead
The Japanese Government has authorized the building of three nuclear power stations to reduce the country's reliance on oil. These are the first nuclear power stations approved in Japan since the Three Mile Island accident in the United States two years ago. Eight new coal-fired power stations were also approved.

Tokyo sales drive
Britain's Hawker Siddeley Group has launched a sales drive in Tokyo in an effort to balance its trade account with Japan. Mr. Douglas Deitmer, president of its Japanese subsidiary, said the group sold \$10m (£4.5m) worth of goods to Japan annually but bought about double that figure in Japanese goods, mainly components.

Rail loan extended
Mr. Julius Nyerere, the Tanzanian president, has secured Chinese agreement to a 10-year delay in the start of repayments on an interest-free \$680m (£302m) loan from Peking to build the Tanzania-Zambia railway. Repayments over 30 years were due to begin in January 1983.

BEAUMONT PROPERTIES LIMITED

Mr. J. Hugh Jones reports on the year ended 30th September 1980

Results for the year

	1980	1979
Profit before tax	1,456,664	1,270,975
Cost of dividends	788,820	640,078
Shareholders' funds	21,443,820	15,672,402

- Profit before tax increased by £185,000.
- "Gross" dividend payable increased by 16%.
- Group's portfolio professionally revalued as at 30th September, 1980 at total value of £38,612,314 being an increase of 28%.
- During year purchased new properties at total cost of £971,500. Since end of financial year purchased further properties for £1,135,000 and have agreed purchases amounting to £2,100,000.
- Building work of Phase III in major development at Sale, Cheshire, almost completed. The four shop units and offices being marketed and giving rise to positive interest.

British Aluminium to resist £30m action over power bill

Court move on electricity dispute

After years of wrangling, the dispute between British Aluminium and the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board involving nearly £30m looks as if it could be resolved before the Scottish courts. The electricity authority has lodged a detailed summons with British Aluminium, which the company's legal advisers are examining.

On receiving the summons yesterday British Aluminium declared: "The claim by the hydro-electric board is not accepted and will be strongly resisted."

The aluminium company has refused to accept liability for payment of the bill which has increased yearly since 1976, but since then it has prudently made provision in its accounts which by the end of last year had risen to £29.91m.

The origins of the dispute go back more than 10 years. The company then agreed with the help of a government loan to pay part of the cost of the Hunterston "B" nuclear power station. In return British Aluminium negotiated a special agreement with the board for the use of its aluminium smelter at Invergordon, Ross and Cromarty, and the deal was one of a number concluded in the 1960s as the aluminium industry was encouraged to expand.

Behind the deal was the then widely accepted belief that the new generation of nuclear power stations would provide electricity at a lower cost to make smelting attractive.

Under the terms of that contract with the board up to the year 2000—apart from the contribution to Hunterston "B"—British Aluminium pays an annual charge calculated on the basis of efficient operation of the power station, but subject to rising fuel and operating costs.

The theory and the economics appeared at the time to be sound. But the Hunterston "B" project has been dogged by failures, delays and continuing problems. Completion was not only delayed but planned load factors were not achieved.

Output has been limited to reduce the risk of corrosion, and sea water which entered the cooling system forced the shutdown of one of the two reactors from the autumn of 1977 to early last year.

As the costs have mounted they have been borne by the Government, but the differences over the detailed interpretation of the contract are at the heart of the dispute on which the courts will be asked to rule.

British Aluminium stressed that the contract with the electricity authority was not a fixed price contract, and it had previously expressed its serious concern as the rate of escalation since the contract was first negotiated in 1963.

But the dispute over certain revenue charges and related matters has been complicated still further. Although the board is contracted to supply the electricity to the Invergordon smelter, the Hunterston "B" station operates under the aegis of the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

A year ago British Aluminium said that even if all the disputed items were settled in its favour, the annual charges would have increased by a greater proportion than the electricity board's industrial tariff over the period. This meant that the original expectation that the costs of nuclear power generation would be stable in real terms would not have been realized.

At that time the company said that if the courts were to find in its favour, the net effect as of the end of 1979 would be an increase in pre-tax profits of £10.7m.

In a statement yesterday British Aluminium welcomed the issuing of the summons as representing "a positive step towards the resolution of the matter".

Sharp rise in laser scanning at supermarket checkouts forecast
By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor
Laser scanning of goods at supermarket checkouts as part of retailers' computerization plans should be an economic proposition by early next year.

This claim yesterday was made by Mr. Donald Harris, chairman of the Article Number Association and a director of Tesco Stores, who forecast that the present half-dozen stores with trial scanning should grow to 20 within a year and at least 40 by the end of next year.

The system, which uses a low-power laser to "read" identification codes printed by manufacturers as a series of bars on packets, depends upon a sufficient volume of articles bearing the codes.

About 2,000 items are so far coded which, because they are mostly fast-moving lines, account for about 50 per cent of retail volume sales. For scanning to be economic to run—a store installation can cost up to £250,000—70 per cent of volume sales needs to be bar-coded. That figure is expected to be reached early next year.

But some of the 600 delegates at yesterday's London conference of the Article Number Association—the coordinating body for bar-coding and scanning—were sceptical of how

quickly all the large multiples would move into full-scale scanning.

So far, only Key Markets and Tesco have been backing scanning systems, with Key Markets planning to add nine scanning stores this year to its present three and Tesco committed to 15 such installations by the first quarter of next year.

Shipbuilders in talks on warships with MoD
By Our Industrial Editor
Talks are taking place between the Ministry of Defence and state-owned British Shipbuilders over the future of the Royal Navy's warship building programme.

The talks will have a critical bearing on the prospects for the long-established shipbuilding corporation which has been forced to concentrate increasingly on warship construction because of a continued lack of merchant orders.

But the reduction in the volume of orders expected from the Royal Navy and until very recently, a failure by 25 to attract export contracts for warships, will create problems for the state group's specialist warship yards.

It is scheduled to submit a revised corporate plan to the Department of Industry within the next few weeks and the talks with the defence ministry will have an important bearing on its shape.

BS is pressing for clarification of the Royal Navy's plans for the future of the Type 22 frigate.

With new vessels of this class costing about £130m, the Navy has drawn up plans for a smaller replacement which could be built for about half that price.

The future of Type 22 will be critical to Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde. Most of its workload since nationalization three and a half years ago has been taken up with orders for vessels of that class.

The number of industrial stoppages reported in February remained exceptionally low at just 73, the Department of Employment disclosed in the *Employment Gazette*, published yesterday. Only once since last summer has the number of new disputes in any one month risen above 100, compared to an average of about 175 disputes a month in 1979.

However, the number of working days lost in February, because of industrial stoppages, rose again, albeit from a low level.

The provisional estimate of 453,000 working days lost last month and the revised figure of 221,000 for January are above the average of nearly 150,000 in the later months of last year, but still very much lower than the average monthly toll of 2,456,000 lost days in 1979.

Assembly line work
New evidence on the effects of assembly line work on people's health is provided by Mr. Donald Broadbent and Mr. Dennis Garth of the psychology and psychiatry departments, Oxford University.

The authors observe that three factors have often been accused of harming workers' health: repetition; pacing of the job by machines, rather than by the workers themselves; and short cycle-times (the time taken to complete the task). These factors have usually been lumped together.

The study shows that "pacing" rather than short cycle-

time is a hazard and that people can suffer stress without being dissatisfied with their work.

It also concludes that the effects of such work conditions differ with the temperament of the person employed.

Overtime
Overtime working appears to have stabilized, although at a low level. In December and January an average of 8.5 million hours of overtime a week was worked by blue-collar workers in manufacturing industry (seasonally adjusted).

This was about the same as in November, but still very low when compared with the 15 million hours of overtime worked a week at the end of 1979.

The percentage of all blue-collar workers in manufacturing working overtime in January was only 22.3 compared to 26.3 in December.

Short-time working
Short-time working is still rising. In January 8.4 million hours a week (not seasonally adjusted) were lost through short-time working in manufacturing. This was one million more than in December, while 13.7 per cent of all blue-collar workers in manufacturing were stood off for the whole or part of a week in January.

The reduction in overtime and increase in short-time working since the end of 1979 is equal to 335,000 workers on a standard week.

Industry hopes on rail spending

By Bill Johnstone
General Electric Company (GEC) and the ailing British Steel could be two of the principal beneficiaries if the British Rail £5,700m modernization programme is given approval by the Government.

Although British Rail stresses that no contractual decisions have been made, it concedes that the programme would benefit hundreds of British companies.

Principal suppliers to British Rail include Brush Electrical Machines, part of the Hawker Siddeley Group, based in Loughborough, diesel locomotives, others include: GEC Traction, Manchester, electric motors; Sulzer Brothers, Farnborough, and Davey Paxman, Colchester, diesel engines; GEC's General Signal, Doreham, Hertfordshire, and Westinghouse Brake and Signal, Chippengham, signalling equipment; British Steel, track; Costain, and Dow-Mac, sleepers; Balfour Beatty Power Construction, Liverpool electrification engineering.

British Steel as the principal supplier of track, could benefit substantially. About 21 per cent of the 11,000 route miles of British Rail track is electrified and modernization would increase this to nearly 40 per cent.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail speaking at the annual dinner of the Prudential Assurance Company in London last night said that investment anywhere in Britain's economy, provided it was profitable, would bring benefits twice over.

The investor would become more prosperous and able to offer better services to its customers, the plan and investment needed would provide much-needed orders for British manufacturers.

The telecommunications Bill through Parliament.

The licence may also depend on the result of the report on "value-added services" commissioned by the Department of Industry from Professor Michael Beesley of the London Business School. The report, which will be published in early April, is expected to be in favour of the private sector being able to provide an alternative telecommunication network to British Telecom.

The extent of the network offered by the consortium and the form it will take is still to be established. Cable and Wireless is studying the results of its survey in the private sector being able to provide an alternative telecommunication network to British Telecom.

It is likely that the new network will include satellite, microwave and cable links for carrying data and speech for business users. It is equally likely that by the time the consortium is operational and licensed, at least 49 per cent of Cable and Wireless will be in private hands.

Employment Gazette
Only 75 industrial stoppages last month

By Melvyn Westlake
The number of industrial stoppages reported in February remained exceptionally low at just 73, the Department of Employment disclosed in the *Employment Gazette*, published yesterday. Only once since last summer has the number of new disputes in any one month risen above 100, compared to an average of about 175 disputes a month in 1979.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last chance for the engineers?

From Mr. John Kemp
Sir, Business News reported on March 25 that the meeting of the leaders of the engineering profession failed to resolve the stalemate with Sir Keith Joseph.

As Derek Harris said on March 20, Sir Keith could now form a new registering body (chartered or statutory) which would be a rival to the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI). Knowing that it will not be allowed to register the favoured title "Chartered Engineer" (CE), he could scrap the government initiative entirely. However, something between these two extremes would be more constructive.

Sir Keith would be unwise to wage war with the profession, even if he is being urged on by the EEF, CBI, ITC, Conference of Engineering Professors, John Lodge, and the like. Their subscriptions are not met, since they are not going to pay for the new body and will be nowhere to be seen when the battle commences.

Rather, he should head the ranks of the chartered engineers themselves, who are alone expected to make this new body self-financing through their registration fees. They simply do not want a new rival registration system. They cannot be forced to pay for one, so the proposed new body is doomed for lack of funds.

The CEI (1978) is the creature, wars and all, of chartered engineers, and they believe it to be better than Sir Keith's devil. What it lacks is resolve and finance. Sir Keith could give it both. He should appoint the two best men in the CEI board, giving them instructions and a programme on the action he wishes to see, under threat of legislation if his deadlines are not met. Guaranteeing CEI's borrowing would remove its immediate financial straits.

CEI's instructions for next year might be: seeking agreement to higher entry qualifications (honours degree) as a proper accreditation procedure for those desirous of practising on the use of CEI in manufacturing industry, as guidance for employers; establishing stronger communication links (for example, a newsletter with members, and becoming a stronger voice in engineering; shifting adequate finance for 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 27

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Sensing a change in the mood

An overnight upsurge on Wall Street rubbed off on sentiment in London yesterday. Equities pushed ahead strongly, the FT All-Share index pushing up towards last November's all-time "high".

Whether the Dow Jones Industrial Average can at last break away from the 1,000 level remains to be seen. At the moment the market is being fuelled by the thought of the money that stands to be released for investment as a result of the large take-over bids outstanding. The direction of the market over the next couple of months will, however, probably be determined by the trend of short term interest rates.

In London, the hope quite clearly is that the recession is nearing bottom and that slackening monetary growth will allow M1R to come down a further point or two by late spring. If we are to have a "Lawson" recovery based on a continuing fall in the rate of inflation, all well and good for both equities and gilts. At this moment the case is speculative: institutions look likely to be hedging their bets by bidding the real return on the Treasury index linked stock down to 11-12 per cent.

Alexander Howden Little room for manoeuvre

Alexander Howden's 1980 profits are fractionally down at just over £20m placing the group's performance an axis between its rivals Sedgwick, which reported a 12.5 per cent fall, and Willis Faber, which managed a 13 per cent increase.

The temptation naturally is to think that if results like these represent life at the bottom of the insurance cycle, then major broking firms must represent the soundest recovery bets in the market.

But Howden's profits have now been on a plateau for four years and it has now run out of scope for increasing the dividend; the payment is maintained, and slightly less than twice covered by earnings this time.

Thus, brokers like Howden have no option but to keep the lid on expenses (Howden's rose by 11 per cent to £49m last year and staff numbers dropped) while stepping up the fight for new business.

Howden has done reasonably well on this front, lifting retained brokerage by almost £4m to £45m, while claiming that its independence has proved something of a blessing in the wake of transatlantic mergers and link-ups.

Howden has also seen its mainstream insurance interests hold steady in the face of severe competition, though a £3.7m drop in premium income to £35.1m suggests it has been standing aside as rate-cutting intensified.

With little prospect, then, of a significant breakout for profits this year and possibly next, the shares up 2p to 119p yesterday look sound rather than exciting on a p/e ratio of 9 and yielding 8.4 per cent.

BBA

The worst may be over

After growing fairly steadily for the last decade, BBA's profits shrank to a tenth of the previous year's level in 1980. Though closely tied to the automotive industry, which traditionally takes between two-thirds to three-quarters of sales, BBA managed in the past to offset declining domestic production by expanding overseas but in 1980 it was hit from all sides.

At home original equipment orders collapsed with BBA taking the brunt of depressed by both car and component makers because of its place at the start of the manufacturing chain. The result was losses of £1.7m at Mintex—a turnaround from profits of about £2m—and although industrial profits were up overseas, lower profits from the German automotive components company left the overseas contribution three-fifths lower at £1.8m before tax. After deducting the United Kingdom loss, this left a pre-tax profit down from £8m to £50,000.

Expecting better results in 1981, BBA has halved the final dividend, leaving the shares yielding 9.6 per cent at 26p—up 1p. His year's hopes are based not on higher demand but the benefits of £1.5m worth of soundances, other cost-savings and lower finance charges.

The debt/equity ratio, after rising from 35 to over 50 per cent at half-way, was trimmed back to 44 per cent by the year-end by slicing into working capital. So BBA starts on the long recovery road with a tolerable balance sheet but showing little enthusiasm for another try at diversification. Its £6m joint investment in fibreglass with Pilkington, made three years ago, has yet to show a return.

Lucas

De-stocking has ended

Investors had been conditioned—by GKN among others—to expect a horror story from Lucas. So the market took a loss of £27.4m in the six months to the end of January, against profits of £12.3m in the same period last year, in its stride.

Lucas shares gained 9p to 177p in a strong market, though there was added comfort in a maintained interim dividend of 3.7p a share gross. That may yet prove illusory at the end of the year; Lucas promises nothing other than that it will review the final payment in the light of performance and prospects emerging from the current half year.

There is room for optimism though. De-stocking, a major reason why the group's automotive component businesses in Britain plunged into loss (sales value fell by 19 per cent and volume by 29 per cent) has apparently come to an end.



Mr Godfrey Messervy, chairman of Lucas Industries.

On the aerospace side the situation is quite different, however. Here, Lucas saw sales boom increasing by 60 per cent while profits in the United Kingdom increased "substantially" to nearly £7m.

So the question for the remainder of this year is not about profits. At best, after taking a further £12m of closure and redundancy costs above the line in the second half, the group will break even in 1980/81. What matters is the dividend. It seems just possible that Lucas, with its immensely strong balance sheet—gearing is probably no more than about 35 per cent—and if prospects are beginning to look better will still maintain an uncovered payment. That at any rate can be the only explanation for the shares at this level yielding an historic 8.9 per cent.

● For the second year running Kleinwort Benson's profits have benefited handsomely from Sharps, Pixley's bullion dealing. Post-tax profits are up by about £7m to £19m, and most of the increase is attributable to bullion. Since the larger part of these bullion profits must have been earned in the first three months of last year, business throughout the Kleinwort group cannot have shown much growth for most of 1980.

The volume of activity on the corporate finance and sterling lending sides held up, but margins remained tight. Local authority loan business was obviously buoyant, though Kleinwort handled loans to banks and local authorities worth £731m, more than double that in 1979.

On the back of the far higher profits, then, Kleinwort has declared a final dividend of 8.57p gross, which gives a full year payout of 12.9p gross, or 50 per cent. At 284p, up 12p, the yield is 4.5 per cent. But with the prospect this year of much quieter bullion trading, and possibly less demand for local authority funding, last year may prove exceptional.

Anyone who believes that personal acrimony has no part to play in the austere world of national pay bargaining should read the confidential minutes of the meeting between British Shipbuilders and union leaders at the beginning of the month.

It is not every day that a senior union leader complains, in the middle of negotiations, that the chairman of a nationalised industry resembles "a school teacher addressing a classroom of unruly boys", adding for good measure: "We do not like being talked down to by yourself or any other member of your staff. We thought this approach to negotiations had disappeared over 50 years ago."

Those were the words, however, in which Mr James Murray, leader of the shipbuilding union negotiating team, described the "discourtesy" of an opening statement by Mr Robert Atkinson in which the British Shipbuilders chairman declared that he had never "seen anything quite so unrealistic" as the unions' claim.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions later bluntly warned the corporation of a possible "confrontation" after listening with growing dismay to its account of financial pressures and the need to recoup a large part of the costs of any settlement through improvements in productivity.

The best that can be said of the climate in which the pay negotiations covering British Shipbuilders' 70,000 manual workers and staff were left at the end of the meeting in Newcastle is that it could not have improved.

Indeed, during the two tortuous and confusing days of negotiations which ended last Tuesday night some real progress was made towards a pay and productivity settlement to cover the industry. But the settlement which was agreed on Monday night had seemed a near certainty eluded the corporation and CSEU negotiators during the sometimes heated 10-hour session the following day.

Fears that are holding up a shipyard pay deal

When talks resume on Monday, Mr Murray and his colleagues will certainly try to improve the 6.8 per cent basic increase which would increase minimum earnings for a skilled manual worker from £36 a week to £38.50.

Although the pay offer is in stark contrast to the 13 per cent offered to miners and water workers, most union negotiators privately recognize that in an industry in which the indiscriminate use of industrial muscle might only hasten the demise of a corporation expected to lose £100m, there are other, and more modest, parallels.

In taking that view, they almost certainly reflect the feelings of shipyard workers themselves, to judge from the mood of shop stewards from the Tyne and Clyde at this week's talks.

In their Tuesday offer BS has, probably consciously, used an identical figure put by British Leyland to its manual workers last year. The CSEU would prefer the 8.2 per cent increase in minimum rates it won in private sector engineering.

Cash is not, however, the central problem in this year's negotiations. It is the interplay between two factors which overshadow money: jobs and productivity.

British Shipbuilders, faced next year with a reduction in cash limits and limited to the losses of £150m and £25m, has spelled out in harsh terms the need it sees for improved output per man.

The outline by Mr Maurice Phelps, industrial relations director of BS, last year's settlement failed to raise productivity, makes sombre reading. Mr Phelps cited the clause in last year's agreement eliminating the "one in, all in" principle on overtime. He said that some plants had not eliminated the practice and this had cost the corporation an additional £4m to £5m.

Failure to observe procedures helped to push the number of days lost because of disputes to more than one

million last year for the first time in four years.

On changes in working practices, including, by implication, strict demarcation between trades, Mr Phelps told the unions iconically: "Major savings were planned—minimum amounts were obtained."

The corporation remains in theory committed to "total interchangeability" between trades and in practice is determined to increase the frequency with which skilled men are prepared to switch jobs, across demarcation lines. Mr Alex Ferry, the CSEU's general secretary, and Mr Murray, whose own union, the Boilermakers Society, many of the changes would apply, have, however, told BS that detailed proposals in a paper given to them for the first time on Tuesday are totally unrealistic and would in any case be less beneficial to the corporation than the management believes.

Most union leaders privately acknowledge that there is a need for productivity improvements, but have been impressing on British Shipbuilders, apparently with some success, that there is a direct link between output and the job security of shipyard workers. "How can you tell a man to work more efficiently," asked one last week, "if he thinks you are asking him to work himself out of a job?"

The CSEU argues that it has converted fully with the shedding of 20,000 jobs since nationalisation. A surplus of 600 men remains in the latest phase of the restructuring programme, but the unions find encouragement has helped to find 2,000 volunteers for redundancy since Christmas, on terms which, yielding an absolute maximum of £10,400, are markedly less favourable than those in civil or steel.

That is why the proposal for a six-month moratorium on job cuts in the industry seemed timely when it was floated in talks with Mr Murray and Mr Ferry on Monday night. (Some

negotiators are more sceptical, fearing that such a proposal might pave the way for a big shakeout at the end of the moratorium. In the event, Mr Atkinson ruled that now was not the time and the agreement not the place, to enter such a commitment.

In fact, the medium-term future, as the unions are acutely aware, is far from clear. Uncertainty over the off-shore work for which Scott Lithgow particularly is hoping, is matched by that over the future level of warship building as the Ministry of Defence reviews its requirements.

Against such a climate next week's negotiations, especially on productivity, are certain to be difficult, though both sides are hoping now for a settlement before the April 1 anniversary date.

The corporation will be arguing, at the least, for a mechanism that can ensure that its productivity guidelines stick. One big obstacle was apparently cleared when it indicated that it would withdraw its insistence that local productivity agreements had to be reached before the national increase would be paid.

Recognising that for shipyard workers, jobs are at present more important than money, the management has agreed to let British Shipbuilders' improved offer on Tuesday adopt a markedly more conciliatory tone than that of March 2, though CSEU leaders will need persuading that the corporation means what it says.

Mr Atkinson has made it clear he wants to talk with the unions about reaching some mutually acceptable formula on job security when the restructuring programme is complete.

The section of Tuesday's paper dealing with the subject ends unequivocally: "We are convinced that the only way to improve productivity and efficiency in the long term is by providing our employees with some form of job security." On that at least both sides are agreed.

Donald Macintyre

Technology

No, sir, it's not the Chattanooga Choo-Choo...

Coal-burning, steam-driven railway trains—evocative of the Golden Age for many enthusiasts and symbolic of the technology of a former era—may yet stage a comeback. A project is under way in the United States to develop and build two prototype locomotives which will burn coal efficiently, cleanly and economically.

Kenneth Owen

According to American Coal Enterprises (ACE) of Akron, Ohio, coal-burning engines could save the American railways about \$1,300m a year in fuel costs; put 15,000 unemployed coal miners back to work by using 40-50 million tons of coal; release 110 million barrels of oil a year for the road and air transport industries, which cannot burn solid fuel;

when the locomotive is serviced with fresh coal packs. The locomotive is expected to have a range of about 500 miles between fuel stops and 1,000 miles between water stops. Steam which would otherwise escape into the atmosphere will be recovered for drying auxiliary pumps and fans. It will then be condensed back into water, cooled in the support unit and recycled. The water tank holds about 10,000 gallons.

An important innovation in the ACE 3000 design is micro-computer control. Responding to the throttle commands of the locomotive engineer, this control system monitors, regulates and displays furnace and steam conditions. A single system can control several coupled locomotives if required.

Another advance is the use of a balanced reciprocating drive, using opposed pairs of cylinders. This should ensure a smooth interaction between the vehicle and the rail and reduced track maintenance. Tested technology is used in the critical areas of boiler and running gear design.

American Coal Enterprises is a research and development company which is dedicated to coal-based systems and the ACE 3000 will be the first of a planned family of locomotives.

The design team responsible for the ACE 3000 includes Mr Mario Dante Porta, an eminent Argentine railway engineer (previously associated with M. Andre Chapelon, the French locomotive designer); Dr David A. Berkowitz and Mr William L. Wisniewski.

Mr Chapelon and Mr Porta achieved a high level of performance with conventional steam locomotives in Argentina, which were about 2.6 times as cost-effective as a typical diesel-electric engine, according to a British expert, Dr John Sharpe of Queen Mary College, London. On the same basis, Dr Sharpe has calculated that the cost-effectiveness of the planned ACE 3000 is about 2.8

times that of the diesel electric.

Dr Sharpe, engaged as an independent consultant to examine the American locomotive proposals, is impressed by the calibre and experience of the designers. The proposals, he says, represent an attractive workable solution for the railroads to the problems of rising liquid fuel costs and uncertainties over supply.

Particularly impressive, he says, is the operating convenience which the design offers—the use of containerized coal and ash packs, the fully automatic controls, the within balanced drive system, the use of 54in driving wheels which reduce wheel/rail contact stresses, and the Porta two-stage combustion system.

Dr Sharpe, a lecturer in engineering design at QMC, last year produced his own design for a coal-burning locomotive for the 1980s. He is convinced that for long-distance freight services in Australia, India, Canada, East Africa, South America and China coal provides the best solution.

The ACE 3000 is aimed specifically at the United States, while Dr Sharpe's locomotive is designed essentially for Commonwealth countries. There could be export opportunities for British industry, he believes.

Thus the technology is promising and in the United States the finance to translate the design into reality is now being raised. The initial \$30m cost of the ACE project will cover the construction and testing of two prototype locomotives.

The response from certain quarters at least, has been enthusiastic. "Fardon me, boy: is that the Chattanooga Choo-Choo?" inquired an editorial in *The Virginian-Pilot*.

"Not quite," it answered. "That's the ACE 3000. It won't puff, it won't puff. And it won't burn Opex oil."

It would, however, have a genuine steam whistle, the journal noted with approval.

There is a further, double Virginia, connexion for the ACE 3000. The first coal to be used in the new engine will come from Virginia mines and, it has been solemnly announced, the prototype christening ceremony in 1982 will be performed by Miss Elizabeth Taylor, actress and wife of Senator John Warner (Republican, Virginia).



A model of the proposed ACE 3000 steam locomotive being shown to members of the American Senate Coal Caucus.

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Business Diary: We ply harder • Innocenti abroad

Geoffrey Howe's attempts to make Britain financially more attractive to live in led a little credibility yesterday with the return to these shores of Colin Marshall.

He to be the new deputy chief executive at Sears Holdings, the Irish Shoe Corporation, Selfridges and William Hill conglomerate.

Marshall, 48, is giving up a £7m executive vice-president New York at Norton Simon, one of Avis, Max Factor Canada Dry, after the drop in share prices. He came into contact with Sears—on the losing side—in 1974 when British group was trying to get a foothold in Avis.

Although Norton Simon won the day, Geoffrey Maitland, Sears's chief executive, left apparent to the 72-year-old chairman, Leonard, kept in touch with Marshall.

Mr Geoffrey's reduction of tax has brought the British to Marshall's level, into which that of the United States. His salary will not be asked until the publication of the annual report in July.

Marshall, who is from Edgware, Middlesex, and was with Sears in the United States and Mexico before he went to Avis, is the third board member overall rather than special responsibilities. This in a leading Sears watchers speculate still further when, ever, Sainer, who still goes Highbury weekly to cheer Arsenal with his 97-year-old wife, Archer, will hand over chairman's reins.

Sue Crowley (right) and Alyson Hodgson (far right) carried off the honours in yesterday's Cavendish Cup awards for women hotel and catering managers.

Miss Crowley, who is 26 and the manager of Confort Hotel in Henry VIII in London won a cheque for £200 and Lanson champagne and a Lanson rose bowl as well as the cup itself. This is a fine art nouveau bronze of the dancer Loie Fuller by Charles Louchet.

Miss Hodgson, 24, who is a manager with Truistone Forte caterers Gardner Merchants at Newbury, won the under-25 award, a tanzalus from distillers William Grant and Sons.

The cup is named after Rosa Lewis (now TEF's) Cavendish Hotel in Jermyn Street and is sponsored by TEF and Catering Times. I asked the latter's editor, Miles Quest, whether any Savoy Group girls had

entered and he said "No, don't be silly." When I asked Miss Crowley whether she would have preferred the tanzalus, which does not have to be given back, she replied diplomatically: "It's very nice."

● BL are not the only people who would like to recall some Metro—there is also Alessandro de Tommaso, who would like to get his hands on some Minis, too.

De Tommaso is the owner of Innocenti, the firm which assembles Minis near Milan and which he bought from BL with state aid five years ago.

One of his problems is that the Mini agreement runs out in September, and BL says that it will launch the Metro in Italy this summer without Innocenti.

De Tommaso, who also makes Maserati sports cars and Guzzi motor cycles, is replacing BL

with the Japanese company Diabatsu and plans to introduce a new car based on a Japanese three-cylinder engine. But that will take time.

Meanwhile, the Argentinian-born industrialist is—like BL—having problems with the lads. He has accused them of not fulfilling a productivity deal and, being rather shorter on words and longer on action than many Italian employers, he is docking pay packets by £13 a month.

Renzo Canciani, regional secretary of the metalworkers, says that it is De Tommaso who is not delivering. The deal provided for 4,000 jobs, yet the



Photographs: Jonathan Poyser

What would she do with the bronze? At first she said "Put it on my mantelpiece" and then: "I'll put it in my chairman's office, so that he doesn't forget me."

Should so far.

workforce in the motor car and motor cycle divisions had sunk to 2,365.

Absenteeism, he maintained, was no more than the general European level of 10 to 12 per cent.

The trouble lies, he says, not with the 190 Minis which are still coming off the assembly line each day, but with the company's inability to sell more than 70. Where he and his colleagues are, are the new projects which De Tommaso had talked about, among them a new Mini with a 650 cc Benelli engine.

Cornhill Insurance Company is so proud of its cricket sponsorship that the back of the latest annual report shows an eminent cricketer filling in a motor insurance "self-assessment" form, designed by Cornhill to cross new business for brokers. This particular assessment is of some interest, for the cricketer is Ian Botham, who in December was fined £80, banned from driving for a month and had his licence endorsed for the second time after driving at up to 120 mph on the M5.

Ross Davies

Alexander Howden Group Limited

International Insurance.



1979 £'000

59,128

22,521

2,501

20,120

8,220

6,348

12.79p

1980 £'000

65,383

23,060

3,055

20,005

7,976

6,366

13.10p

Trading and investment income (excluding the insurance companies)

Profit before Interest Charge

Interest Charge

Profit before Taxation

Taxation

Dividends

Earnings per share

Stock markets

Prices surge ahead in strong rally

Equities staged another strong rally yesterday, still taking their cue from the overnight strength on Wall St.

Prices surged ahead from the start supported by brisk institutional support. However, thin conditions again made trading for the jobbers difficult with most rises tending to be exaggerated. Sentiment was given a further boost by Wednesday's optimistic remarks from Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, which pointed to a bottoming out of the recession by the second half of 1981.

Another long list of trading statements kept dealers busy along with speculative attention directed at many of the recovery situations, particularly among blue chips. Brokers also reported lively interest in new issues, buying ahead of the new account on Monday.

Having registered a rise of 12.0 at 2 pm, the FT Index closed 11.5 higher at 518.9, after profit taking on the news that Wall St had opened lower in the first hour of trading. But this left the index at its highest level since May 23, 1979, when it stood at 522.4.

The renewed activity in equities boiled over into gilts where investors eagerly await first-time dealings in index linked Treasury 2 per cent 1996 later this morning.

Jobbers were reluctant to predict the reception the new stock would receive, but confirmed earlier reports that bids were being lodged at between £105 and £115.

With yesterday's market looking oversold and jobbers keeping their books light, prices responded quickly to inquiry. In longs, prices extended to £1 while at the shorter end prices closed the day £1 higher on balance.

Shares of Sirdar rose another 2p to a new high of 165p yesterday, making a gain of 8p on the week so far. This follows a circular from brokers Gittins & Co which recommends the shares as a "good buy".

Leading industrials saw selected buying among engineering stocks, helped by the better than expected figures and maintained dividend from Lucas Industries up 3p at 177p. Others to follow in its wake included GKN, 3p to 149p, Hawker Siddeley, 8p to 306p, Tubes 3p to 208p, Metal Box 8p to 186p and BOC International 3p to 124p. Elsewhere, ICI edged ahead 2p to 238p, Glaxo 6p to 300p, Unilever 7p to 503p, Fisons 5p to 160p and Grand Metropolitan 3p to 191p. Only Dunlop suffered a setback, slipping 1p to 69p, after recent bid speculation, in anticipation of bearish comments today.

Building shares remained in demand with institutional buying again keeping jobbers on the hop in a thin market. Blue Circle Industries stood out with

a 12p rise to 420p, with smaller gains in Taylor Woodrow, 10p to 561p, Myson, 3p to 42p, Redland, 4p to 184p, Manders, 10p to 164p and Mixconcrete 7p to 74p. The last two after favourable profits news.

But nervous offerings were seen in Nationalist Chinese Bonds with falls in China 5 per cent 1913 £3 to £10, China Boker 5 per cent £2 to £10, China 5 per cent 1912 £3 to £16 and China Engineering 4 per cent £4 to £22.

The Monopolies go-ahead for a full scale bid for British Sugar itself added another 8p to 291p. Royal Bank of Scotland edged ahead to 148p on talk of better terms, but ended the day 4p better at 144p as Standard & Chartered closed 2p higher at 639p.

Speculative attention benefited British Telecom 13p to 140p, Westwell 9p to 87p, Reedman Smith 'A' 5p to 169p, De La Rue 25p to 675p, Howard Machinery 4p to 34p and Lec Refrigeration 10p to 118p.

Among companies reporting favourable trading statements lifted Broomrose 4p to 39p, Coster Bros 5p to 52p, Howden Group 1p to 136p, BSA Group 1p to 26p, while Lonsdale Universal, at 32p, and Friedland Doggart, at 91p, both closed unchanged.

Recurve profits news boosted Bestobell 26p to 388p, Percy Lane 5p to 44p and Church & Co 13p to 178p. But still reflecting Tuesday's disappointing

news, Ricardo Engineering Consultants dropped another 12p to 478p. Babcock International rose 3p to 109p and Smiths Industries 6p to 350p ahead of figures soon.

Insurance shares were again in the doldrums following the recent spate of poor figures. Prudential eased 4p to 235p, Eagle Star 2p to 211p, on the back of Wednesday's statements, while Legal & General, reporting next week, drifted 2p to 243p and Phoenix Assurance held its own at 278p. Among the rest of the composites, Commercial Union added 5p to 171p, ahead of going ex-div next week, along with General Accident, 6p to 338p, Royal Insurance, 7p to 380p, while GRE remained unchanged.

The recent nervousness in shares of Plessey over its British Telecom contract continues. Yesterday saw another one million shares go through the market at 315p making two millions in the past week. For instance the price raised with the markets, climbing 4p to 315p.

Banks paid no attention to the escalating clerical workers strike with improvements in Barclays, 3p to 383p, Midland, 3p to 321p, Lloyds, 2p to 325p and National Westminster 3p to 351. Improved profits added 12p to Kleinworth Benson at 284p and Berkeley Hambro 15p to 265p.

Stores also made steady progress with GUS 'A' wanted 2p to 480p. Marks & Spencer 1p to 126p, Debenhams 2p to 90p and British Home Stores 2p to 160p. J. H. P. was wanted ahead of figures next month, up 6p to 120p, as speculative attention carried Austin Rover 'A' up a similar figure at 96p.

Equity turnover on March 25 was £166.243m (25,533 bargains). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, Laxmo, Premier Oil, Shell, ICI, GKN, BOC, ICI, Plessey, Traded Options: Dealers reported increased activity with total contracts reaching 1,254, of which Grand Met accounted for 298.

A quiet declaration day with calls in British Land at 71p, Conex at 11p and Norfolk Capital Hotels at 4p.

Imperial Group expects interim profits to slump

By Our Financial Staff

Imperial Group, the brewing to tobacco concern, will see a substantial profits fall in the first half, Mr Malcolm Anson, the chairman, said at the annual meeting in London. But the shares rose 14p to 69p.

He told shareholders that although profitability had improved in recent weeks with the tobacco and brewery divisions helped by pre-Budget buying, the adverse conditions that depressed last year's second half profits had continued in the early months of the current year.

The effects of the Budget would influence the interim results to April 30, and the full-year profits would depend on the extent of improvement in the second half. Last year Imperial made pre-tax profits of £12.8m compared with £14.2m the previous year.

Mr Anson added that many uncertainties overhanging the trading environment with consumer reaction to the Budget were to emerge. Most of the group's businesses have some bias towards the summer, particularly Howard Johnson, the American motels and restaurants business, and he expects second half trading results to be well above those of the first.



Mr Malcolm Anson (right), chairman and chief executive of Imperial, pictured at yesterday's meeting with Mr J. Higgins, a non-executive director.

He also said that while he supported the Government's general approach to the management of the country's affairs, he regretted that the Budget placed such a discriminatory load on drink and tobacco.

"There are many millions of people who want to consume these commodities at a reasonable price and they should not be harassed by propaganda or oppressed by discriminatory taxation," he said.

Imperial took over Howard Johnson last June at a cost of £280m. It is now studying the motor lodge business and the restaurant operation, which needs restoration if it is to make the most of its environment, Mr Anson said in his statement.

Costs push Gestetner down in first quarter

The annual meeting of Gestetner Holdings was held by David Gestetner, joint chairman, although returns for January showed an improvement in turnover for the first quarter was insufficient to cover increased costs. Profits for the quarter were lower than the same period last year.

Although the immediate future appears uncertain, the board is confident that the group, with its unique direct sales and service network, in a particularly strong position to take full advantage of a recovery in the United Kingdom and world economies.

Manders rises to £3.3m pretax

Manders (Holdings), reported a turnover for 1980 of £24.1 (£20.97m). Pretax profit reached £3.37m against £2.8 The CCA pretax profit £2.59m. The dividend went from 6.28p to 6.8p gross.

The board says there is substantial reductions in or of decorative and printing activities in the United Kingdom.

Crown House letter to Denbyware holder

In a letter to shareholders, Denbyware, Mr Patrick E. Partington, chairman of Crown House, says that the only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the letter from Mr R. R. R. is that he and other directors of Denbyware are unable to advise shareholders in the light of the Crown House offer the basis of Denby's trading performance and prospects.

Assam Trading buys industrial estate

Assam Trading (Holdings) through its subsidiary, Con Properties, is to purchase partly developed industrial estate at Fossilpark, Glasgow from Pilkington Industries for £63,000.

The estate consists of a 76,000 sq ft of modern warehouse accommodation about 2.5 acres of adjoining land.

Harris & Sheldon holds dividend

Although turnover of Harris & Sheldon Group has fallen from £15.35m to £14.25m in 1980, pretax profit fell from £4.52m to £4.1m. Earnings per share are £1.75p to £1.6p, but the dividend is being maintained at 4.28p gross.

Half-time loss at William Boulton

The William Boulton group of machinery manufacture tumbled to a pretax loss of £487,000 in the six months December 31 last, compared with a profit of £294,000 time.

Turnover slipped £113,000 to £1.18m. No dividend is being paid; year, shareholders received interim of 0.7p gross, followed by a final of 1.21p. The board expects the group to be trading profitably 1981-82.

Leyland Paint

Leyland Paint and Wallpa has cut its dividend for 1980 from 1.43p gross to 1.31p gross. The board expects the group to be trading profitably 1981-82.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crdus	14%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams & Glyn's	12%

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	pence	total
Adco Tools (I)	0.74(0.74)	0.007(0.004)	0.007(0.004)	0.9(1.79)	6/7	1.74(2.63)
BBA	135(137)	0.85(0.91)	0.89(0.92)	1.5(2.23)	—	1.5(4.46)
Bemrose Corp (F)	48(46.4)	0.33(1.14)	2.23(2.26)	3.6(—)	—	6.5(—)
Berkeley Harbors (F)	11.8(13.06)	4.38(3.57)	16.4(13.0)	0.5(—)	—	0.5(—)
Wm Boulton (I)	11.8(13.06)	0.48(0.93)	0.48(0.93)	2.1(1.13)	22/5	2.1(1.13)
Chambers & Fraser (I)	4.9(5.86)	0.23(0.08)	0.23(0.08)	2.1(2.12)	—	2.1(2.12)
Coster Bros (F)	103.2(95.2)	7.48(9.6)	11.6(13.3)	1.0(0.97)	—	1.0(0.97)
Crosby House (F)	8.2(10.01)	0.14(0.037)	0.14(0.037)	2.8(1.14)	—	2.8(1.14)
Friedland Doggart (F)	—	0.52(1.48)	18.9(14.05)	5.1(7.5)	—	5.1(7.5)
Harris & Sheldon (F)	48.2(45.3)	3.1(4.32)	5.1(7.5)	3.5(3.5)	16/4	7.0(7.0)
Alexander Ewens (F)	—	20.0(20.1)	13.1(12.79)	6.0(4.0)	26/5	9.0(6.5)
Kleinwort (F)	—	19.0(12.1)	—	1.2(2.6)	—	1.2(2.6)
Leyland Paint (F)	38.8(36.6)	0.43(1.5)	4.8(12.3)	1.2(—)	—	1.2(—)
Lucas (I)	543(567)	27.4(27.32)	3.8(14.9)	2.5(2.5)	11/5	4.8(4.4)
Manders (F)	24.4(22.8)	3.1(2.8)	1.6(2.1)	2.8(—)	29/4	4.05(4.05)
Mixconcrete (F)	45.5(40.1)	—	—	0.5(—)	—	0.5(—)
Newst Ltd (F)	—	—	—	1.2(1.19)	30/4	9.0(9.5)
Noble and Lund (F)	3.5(3.3)	0.17(0.07)	3.0(2.7)	—	—	—
Saga Holidays (I)	13.4(11.8)	1.02(0.03)	1.02(0.03)	1.5(1.5)	3/4	—
Sanderson Murray (I)	2.44(2.28)	0.58(0.537)	—	—	—	—
Wm Sclater (I)	12.1(11.6)	—	—	—	—	—

Bemrose down 70 pc, but upturn forecast

By Rosemary Unsworth

Bemrose, the Derby-based printing and packaging group, saw pre-tax profits fall by 70 per cent last year to £138,000 compared with £1.14m the previous year.

Exceptional redundancy costs amounted to £397,000 while interest charges increased from £92,000 to £136m. Turnover rose by £1.6m to £48m in the year to December 27.

Bemrose has now closed its loss-making book publishing division, with the exception of the profitable National Union Catalog. The division incurred losses of £900,000 and with a drawal from the operation has cost £2.78m in extraordinary items. Pretax profits of the group's continuing operations, before redundancy costs, came to £1.6m.

Although the group is paying a final dividend of 2.4p gross, reduced from 3.2p, the interim was passed. But Mr Gordon Brunton, the chairman, said that although this year was unlikely to bring any marked improvement in the market place a significant recovery in group profits was expected, which would enable the board to recommend higher levels of distribution to shareholders.

Besides the difficulties in books, the group's flexible packaging business was hit severely by the recession, the strong pound and competition from overseas. About 500 employees throughout the group have been made redundant.

But Bemrose added that its printing activities in Derby, which include security printing, have made record profits after the installation of new equipment and a move into new markets.



Gordon Brunton, chairman of Bemrose.

Briefly

Noble and Lund: Turnover for year to November 31, £1.51m. Pretax profit £174,500 (£58,000) after tax credit £22,500 (charge £321). Eps 3.06p (1.19p). Dividend, 1.11p gross (0.6p). Order book has improved since year end but unless there is a substantial increase in trading it is unlikely that level of dividend will be maintained in current year.

Hollas Group: In circular giving further details of proposed acquisition of Town and Country Developments, Mr A. R. Lawson, chairman, says current trading of Hollas continues to be satisfactory and board considers prospects for enlarged Hollas Group are good.

News International: Dividend at 4.05p gross declared on special dividend basis payable April 23. Crosby House Group: No dividend (same) for 1980. Turnover £8.20m (£10.01m). Pretax profit £144,000 (loss £55,000). Eps 1.27p (2.2p) and fully diluted 13.5p (loss 4.2p). CCA pretax profit £123,000 (loss £77,000) after charging exceptional loss £138,000.

William Sinclair Holdings: Dividend held at 2.14p gross. Turnover for half year to December 31, £12.2m (£11.68m). Pretax loss £587,000 (loss £538,000). Chairman anticipates an improvement over previous year.

Barrow Hepburn Group has purchased 50% of Sals Equip AB, for £57,500. Sals is a Swedish maker of heavy duty saws and blocks.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Formal document for "1981 second offer" for Carlton Industries of 78p per share, already announced, had been issued. Directors and advisers consider terms fair and reasonable, recommend shareholders to accept, and intend to accept in respect of new shareholdings totalling 1.95 million shares (7.2 per cent).

Electric and General Investment Co: Gross income for the year to February 28, 1981, £788,000 (£807,000).

Friedland Doggart Group: Pretax profit 1980, £22,000 (loss £1,480). Total gross dividend, 6.74p (6.35p).

W. S. Yeates (coach and car distribution): company's shares traded on London stock exchange. Turnover for year to October 31, 1980, £22.7m (£20.38m). Pretax profit, £1.26m (£1.44m). Total net dividend, 9.17p (8.47p).

Abwood Machine Tools: Turnover for half-year to September 30, 1980, £749,000 (£478,000). Pretax profit, £7,000 (loss, £39,000). Figures include a first-time contribution from Precisionlap.

Saga Holidays climbs 15 pc

By Peter Wainwright

After the recent leap in profits at Horizon Travel it was the turn yesterday of Saga Holidays, the specialist in holiday packages, to report a 15 per cent increase in its six months to December 31. Turnover rose 18 per cent to £13.89m while pre-tax profits climbed by nearly 15 per cent to £1.3m.

Saga still thinks of itself as a tour operator, but it has long had a policy of offering big discounts to customers who book early. It used to put the entire cash on deposit but two years ago it went into equipment leasing of things like fork lift trucks, cranes and milk churns. Not so long ago more than half Saga's pre-tax profits came from interest on money deposited, but the decision to earmark funds for leasing has temporarily tied up a lot of it.

After discounts, investment income and leasing income totalled £529,000 in the six months against £485,000, but the big upswing in leasing income will start only at the end of this financial year. However, the entry into leasing has one valuable side effect: capital allowances on the leased assets kept tax down to £82,000 against £71,000.

The interim dividend represents a 19 per cent increase in gross payment to 4.65p. Earnings a share were 20.55p. The strong pound has helped the group hold many prices in the overseas winter brochure, and advance bookings show a "healthy increase". The year's figures should be "satisfactory", according to Mr Sidney De Haan, chairman. Other ventures such as a new and leasehold in Ireland, and a new venture in the Americas, based in Boston, Massachusetts, will take time to pay off.

Jobs lost in bank merger programme

By Philip Robinson

About 40 people have been made redundant as a result of rationalization at Charterhouse Group and Keyser Ullman in preparation for the two becoming one bank early this summer.

Mr Derek Wilde, Charterhouse deputy chairman, who is retiring at the end of April, said that the merger would result in a number of redundancies and some natural wastage. There has been a reduction in the combined staffs of the banks by about 10 per cent since last July. I would not like to say if further reductions are planned.

Charterhouse launched what is effectively an all-share takeover bid for Keyser last July, valuing it at £43m.

Mr Wilde said the banks were now about three-quarters of the way through the rationalization process. Last December Mr Malcolm Wells said he was resigning as chief executive of Charterhouse Japhet, the accepting house subsidiary of the group, over differences of opinion on how the merged bank should be run.

Last month Charterhouse confirmed that Mr Geoffrey Rovere, deputy chairman when Mr Wilde retired, was to become chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse Japhet from the end of this month. Mr Rovere said: "We don't expect any further senior management changes."

The Royal Assent for the Bill which allows the merger is expected in about three weeks.

Mixconcrete falls to £1.6m

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Increased losses on concrete pipes and lower demand for precast concrete cut profits of Mixconcrete (Holdings) from £2.3m to £1.6m before tax in 1980.

Mr John Darnell, chairman, says 1981 will be a worse year for the construction industry, which lags behind the industrial cycle, with demand still falling and margins under pressure.

The group's concrete output fell by a tenth in 1980 and Mr Darnell expects a similar fall this year. But Mixconcrete has a strong balance sheet and the accounts have been maintained at 5.79p gross. The share rose 5p to 74p yesterday where the yield is 7.8 per cent.

Losses on concrete pipes rose from about £750,000 to £1m in 1980 and Mixconcrete is now rationalizing this business. Depending on the state of the market, this may involve withdrawal.

Audit changes suggested for Lloyd's members

By Richard Allen

Insurance Correspondent

A suggestion that accounting and audit requirements for members of the Lloyd's insurance market should be brought into line with current company law principles has been made by the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies.

In a memorandum to the Committee of Lloyd's, which is seeking views on recommendations in the Fisher Report on self-regulation, the committee urges that efforts should be made to enable auditors to report on Lloyd's syndicate accounts in "true and fair" terms.

The accountants are also concerned that the private means of Lloyd's members should be closely scrutinized on admission and regularly monitored.

Coates holds dividend after £2m setback

By Peter Wainwright

Coates Bros, the maker of printing inks, synthetic resins and other industrial chemicals, saw pretax profits fall last year to £7.48m from £9.6m. Turnover rose from 195.2m to £103.2m.

The group explains that the accounting basis has changed. It now strikes historic profits after historic depreciation only. In the past the group allocated an extra sum as a contribution to fixed asset replacement.

In 1979 this was £1.1m, a hefty addition to its historic depreciation of £1.54m. In 1980 the extra depreciation would have been £1.3m. The accounts will of course include a current cost profit and loss account with appropriate depreciation provisions.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the change does nothing to alter the direction of profits. A provision of £264,000 for reorganization is treated as an extraordinary item. However, an unchanged gross final dividend of 4.03p keeps the total payment at 4.29p. Earnings a share slipped from 13.33p to 11.64p.

Sir Richard Meyjes, chairman, reports that business worsened quickly in the second half of the year. He adds: "The early months of 1981 show no further deterioration but as yet there has been no real sign of an upturn."

Coates has suffered from big increases in the price of raw materials such as petrochemicals which are 70 per cent of all raw material purchases.

Rotaprint moves to cut borrowings

By Rosemary Unsworth

Rotaprint, the loss-making printing and duplicating group, has made a sale and leaseback deal on one of its factories to repay some of its borrowings.

The group, which reported a £518,000 pretax loss at the interim stage last September, has sold its Queensbury factory for £620,000 and leased it back for 30 years at £34,750 a year rental subject to five-yearly reviews. The funds raised will repay Midland Bank £600,000 in short-term loans. Rotaprint is also repaying £160,000 in medium-term loans to the bank, bringing that debt down to £400,000.

Borrowings, which were £3m before the sale, now stand at £400,000 in secured bank loans, an overdraft of £1.89m and advances guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department of £132,000 with hire purchase commitments of £26,000.

The bank facilities are current until May 31 and the board said that the group has sufficient working capital to meet its requirements until then. It plans to negotiate further arrangements by that date to ensure the group's continuation. Yesterday the share price rose 1p to 14p.

Since the year end is on March 31, the directors have deferred making any further financial statement until the results are published and prospects and working capital requirements will be spelt out.

By then the new chairman, Mr David Angwin, will have taken over the reins. It is believed that he will be reporting further losses for the full year.

Rotaprint is also not making any provision in the accounts for claims for damages of 16m francs (about £1.45m) which has been brought against the group by the joint receivers and the judicial administrator of S. A. R. L. Gaver Fourchault, the group's former distributor in France, and the owner of the company.

Cocoa deal may exclude Ivory Coast

Cocoa traders are considering whether the proposed International Cocoa Agreement might go ahead without the Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer. Reports from 'Abidjan, the Ivory Coast capital, suggest that the government is still opposed to the agreement.

It is also thought that other West African producers could be more sympathetic to the Ivory Coast's point of view. The Ivorians are particularly unhappy about the proposed semi-automatic price adjustment mechanism. But the London market has closed with most months a little higher, partly because of heavy rain in Brazil which cut roads between the cocoa growing region and ports.

Burroughs outlook

Burroughs Corp, the Michigan-based office equipment group, expects earnings for the first half of 1981 to be below the year-earlier \$108.5m (£48m). Mr Michael Blumenthal, the chairman, told the annual meeting.

He said the trend of new orders in the United States was encouraging in the early months this year, but international results had been less favourable because of the strength of the dollar and the softness of European markets.

Sun Hung Kai ahead

Sun Hung Kai Properties of Hong Kong said that net profits after tax and minorities rose to \$HK270.1m (£22.6m) in the six months to December 31, from \$HK142.8m in the first half last year. The interim dividend has been raised by 2 cents to 24 cents.

The company said full-year profits would be satisfactory and that it expected to pay a final dividend of at least 36 cents, against 30 cents.

Commerzbank slumps

Commerzbank's group net profits fell to DM34m (£7.2m) in 1980 from DM142m the year before. The bank said in Frankfurt. The group balance sheet total was DM100,000m against DM100,300m.

Business appointments

Mr Morley heads Charterhouse Corporate Investments

Mr Michael H. F. Morley, group managing director-corporate and strategic investments, the Charterhouse Group, has been additionally appointed chairman of Charterhouse Corporate Investments.

Mr N. H. Carter and Mr R. Whitehead have become directors of Nelson Hurst & Marsh.

Mr John Chelson has been made director of facilities and general supplies, Ford Motor Company. He succeeds Mr Bob Drake who has retired after 45 years' service.

Mr Colin M. Marshall has become a director and deputy chief executive of Sears Holdings.

Tunku Dato' Ahmad bin Tunku Yahya, and Mr Michael J. Dowdy, director of operations and finance, respectively, of Sime Darby Berhad have been appointed to the board of Sime Darby London, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sime Darby Berhad.

Mr Hugh Lang has joined the board of Redman Heenan International.

Mr Peter Hickson and Mr David J. Hawkes have been made directors of G. Shoes.

Mr R. S. Gray has been appointed to Mr Willis Faber as group chief accountant and as an executive director of Willis Faber (Finance and administration).

Mr C. G. Bred has become deputy chairman of Bickhams Dudley.

Two new members elected to the London Metal Exchange for 1981-82 are: Mr Colin Clark, director of Sogemini (Metals) and Mr John Mountford of I.M.I. The new members replace the late Mr Becker, of Brandeis Goldschmidt and Mr Manfred Kopelman, of Anglo Chemical (Metals) who did not stand for election.

Mr David Wallis, director of oil, gas and traffic, Vauxhall Motors, has been elected to the board of the company.

Mr Mike Summersgill has been appointed senior local director of Barclays Bank's Guildford district.

Mr Charles Levinson has become managing director of WEA Records.

Mr Robin Laidlaw, director of marketing, Eastern Gas, has become deputy chairman, Southern Gas.

Mr W. F. Ristdon, general manager and trustee, TSB of Lancashire and Cumbria, has been appointed to the board of United Dominions Trust as an executive director, with special responsibility for operational coordination with the TSB Group. Mr L. Bolton, chairman, Tayside and Central Scotland; Mr J. W. Hocum, regional general manager, Birmingham and the Midlands; Mr C. D. Hughes, chairman, Eastern England; and Mr J. Lowe, managing director of Yorkshire

